

# HELLBOY

BY  
STJEPAN  
ŠEJIĆ

BOOK  
THREE

DC  
BLACK  
LABEL



HARLEY  
QUINN

**BOOK THREE**

**STJEPAN ŠEJIĆ**  
STORY AND ART

**GABRIELA DOWNIE**  
LETTERS

**STJEPAN ŠEJIĆ**  
COVER AND VARIANT COVER

**HARLEY QUINN** CREATED BY  
**PAUL DINI AND BRUCE TIMM**



FIVE DAYS  
AFTER...THE HUG.

HOW THE HELL DID  
I GET HERE?!

I MEAN, IT WAS THREE IN THE  
MORNING, AND THERE I WAS  
WIDE AWAKE ON MY BED,  
MENTALLY BACKTRACKING MY  
WAY THROUGH LIFE...

...CONNECTING THE DOTS  
THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE  
DREAM I'D JUST HAD.

THEY SAY A LAWYER WHO DEFENDS  
THEMSELF HAS A *FOOL* FOR A CLIENT.  
I WONDER IF THE SAME IS TRUE FOR  
PSYCHIATRISTS?

ANYHOW...PATIENT'S NAME:  
*HARLEEN QUINZEL*.

PATIENT'S BAD COLLEGE  
EXPERIENCE LED TO YEARS  
OF EMOTIONAL ISOLATION.

EVEN WHEN SHE WAS SURROUNDED  
BY PEOPLE, SHE WAS ALONE---SHYING  
AWAY FROM RELATIONSHIPS BECAUSE  
SHE FELT THERE WERE ALWAYS PEOPLE  
*WATCHING, WAITING*, EAGER TO  
MAKE HER THE BUTT OF THEIR JOKES.

THIS LED TO A LOT OF  
UNRESOLVED RESENTMENT  
AND ANGER.

PATIENT LATER CHANGED HER WORK  
ENVIRONMENT, BUT THAT HAD LITTLE  
EFFECT ON HER SOCIAL INTERACTIONS.  
THE ONLY PERSON SHE TALKED TO WAS  
A GRUFF SECURITY CHIEF WHO RARELY  
EVEN CRACKED A SMILE.







IT MADE A SAD KIND OF SENSE  
THAT IN THE END, I GRAVITATED TO  
THE ONE PERSON WHO ACTUALLY  
SEEMED TO *NEED* ME...

...THE ONE PERSON WHO  
MAYBE EVEN LIKED ME...

THE PERSON WHO TWICE  
HELD MY *LIFE* IN HIS HANDS.

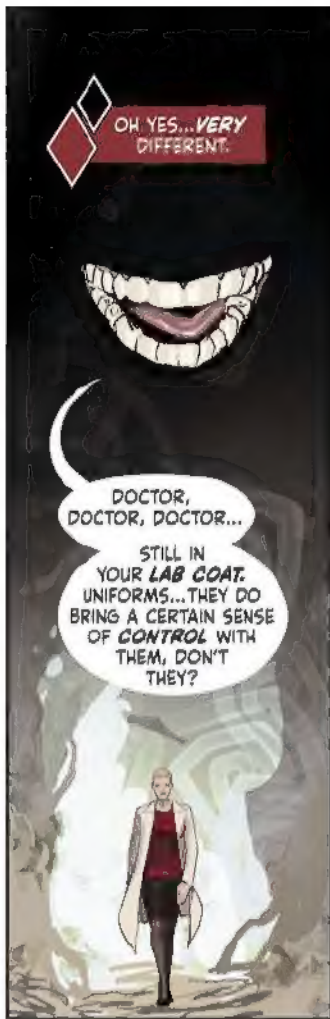
THE FIRST TIME HE GAVE  
ME NIGHTMARES...

THE SECOND  
TIME...

WELL, THE SECOND TIME HE  
GAVE ME SOME VERY DIFFERENT  
KINDS OF DREAMS...







OH, YES...*VERY*  
DIFFERENT.

DOCTOR,  
DOCTOR, DOCTOR...

STILL IN  
YOUR *LAB COAT*.  
UNIFORMS...THEY DO  
BRING A CERTAIN SENSE  
OF *CONTROL* WITH  
THEM, DON'T  
THEY?



THAT DOES  
SEEM TO BE THE  
PREVAILING OPINION AMONG  
THE BIRDS, THE CATS, AND  
THE BATS...



HOWEVER, I DO  
ASSURE YOU THIS SENSE  
OF CONTROL IS JUST  
AN *ILLUSION!*

OR  
MAYBE...A  
*MAD PERSON'S*  
DELUSION?

I'M...  
I'M *NOT*  
MAD!

OH, BUT  
YOU *MUST*  
BE!



OR YOU  
WOULDN'T HAVE  
COME HERE!

OKAY, CARDS ON THE TABLE:  
I SPENT FIVE HOURS SORTING  
THROUGH *THE MAD HATTER'S*  
PATIENT HISTORY, SO THERE WAS  
SOME OF *THAT* IN MY DREAM  
AS WELL.



BUT THE REST  
OF IT WAS ALL  
*HIM...*

HEH...WELL,  
I GUESS THAT  
DOES MAKE  
SENSE...



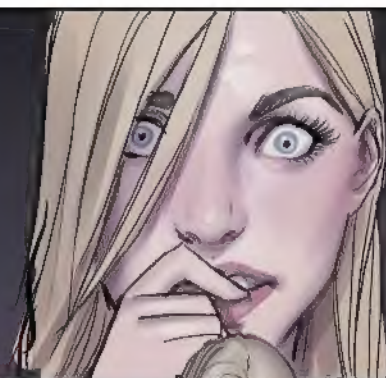
...MR. JAY.





I DESPERATELY WISHED  
I COULD HAVE CALLED  
IT A NIGHTMARE...

...BECAUSE THE TRUTH  
WAS TOO DISTURBING.



HE GOT UNDER  
MY SKIN.

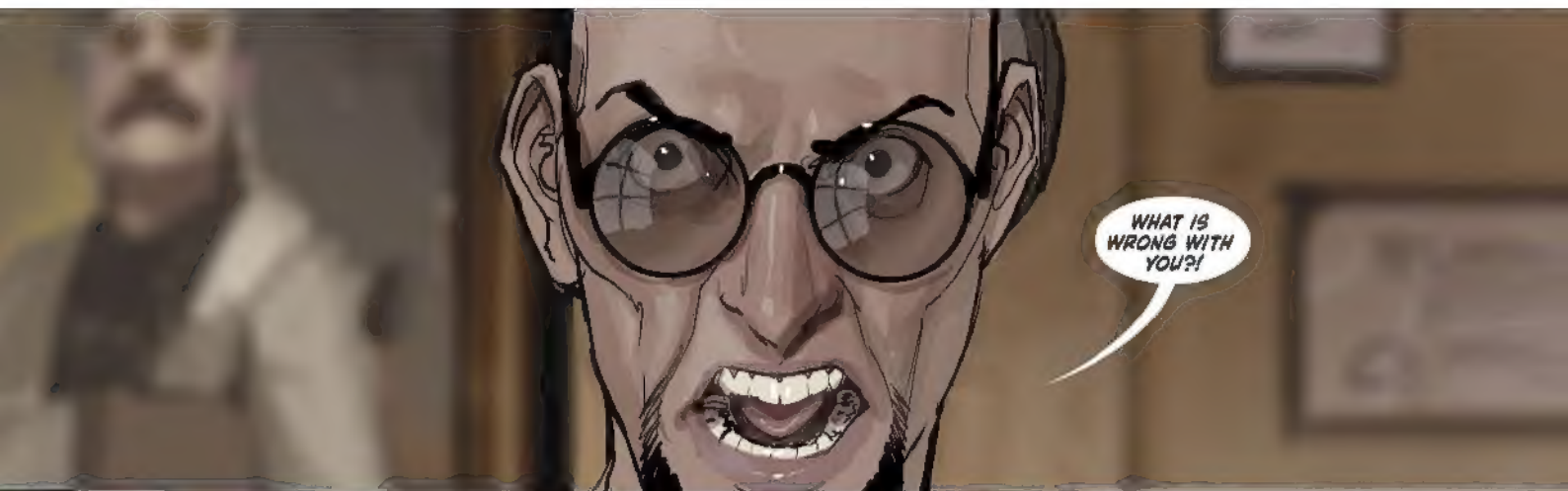
I DIDN'T JUST SNAP  
OUT OF THAT DREAM  
FEELING SWEATY.

I WOKE UP  
WET...



WHAT IS  
WRONG WITH  
ME?





WHAT IS  
WRONG WITH  
YOU?!

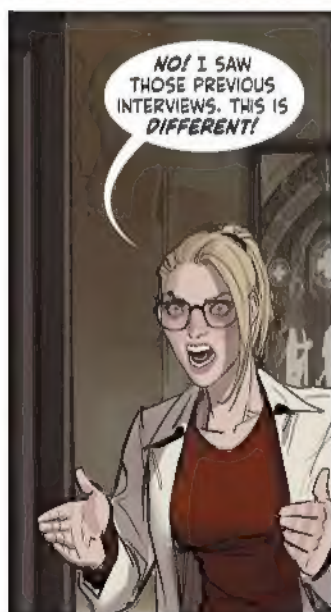


COVERING THE  
CAMERA WHILE ALONE  
IN A ROOM WITH  
**THE JOKER?**

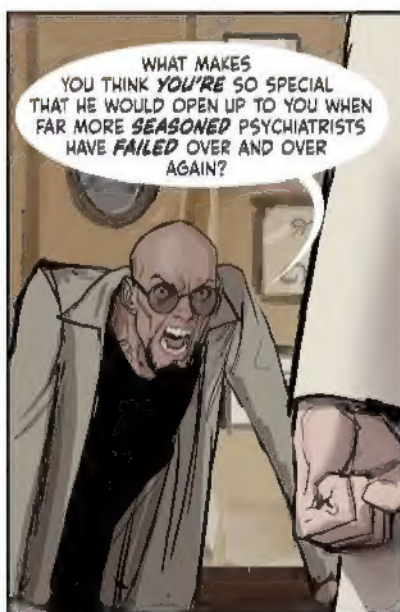
I **HAD** TO.  
HE FELT WATCHED.  
IT'S...HE WAS BACKING OUT  
AFTER I'D GOTTEN HIM TO  
OPEN UP TO ME.



OH FOR  
**CRYING OUT LOUD**,  
DR. QUINZEL, JOKER HAS SO  
FAR "OPENED UP" TO SIX DIFFERENT  
PSYCHIATRISTS--AND BY **OPENED** I  
MEAN OPENED THE SEWAGE  
DRAIN AND SPILLED HIS  
**BULLSHIT!**



**NO!** I SAW  
THOSE PREVIOUS  
INTERVIEWS. THIS IS  
**DIFFERENT!**



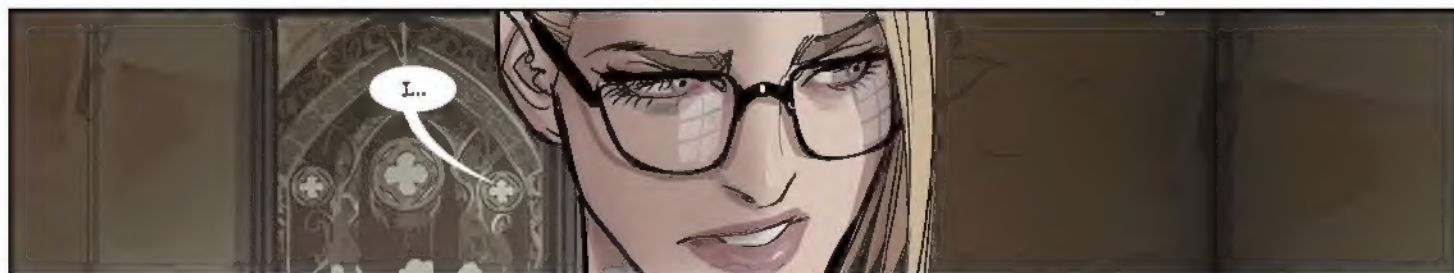
WHAT MAKES  
YOU THINK **YOU'RE** SO SPECIAL  
THAT HE WOULD OPEN UP TO YOU WHEN  
FAR MORE **SEASONED** PSYCHIATRISTS  
HAVE **FAILED** OVER AND OVER  
AGAIN?



...



WELL?



I...





DR. QUINZEL,  
YOU ARE A PROMISING  
PSYCHIATRIST. I UNDERSTAND YOUR  
**EAGERNESS**, BUT I MUST INSIST  
THAT YOU **EXERCISE EXTREME**  
CAUTION WITH THESE...  
PEOPLE.

DR. STRANGE,  
HE IS **COMPLETELY**  
RESTRAINED. PLEASE. LET  
ME CONTINUE THIS.  
CAMERAS **STAY**  
OFF.



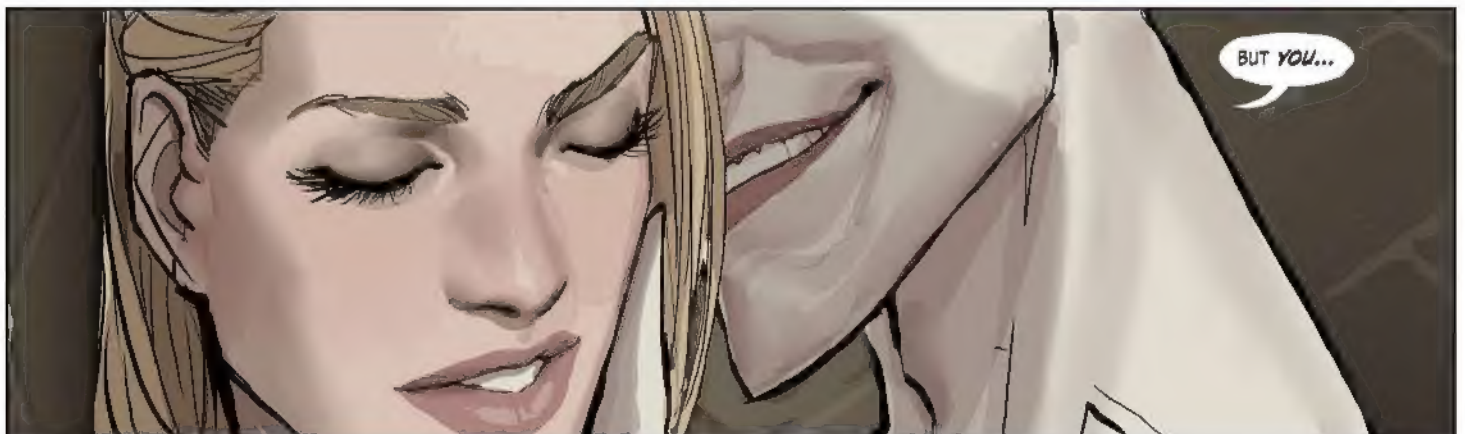
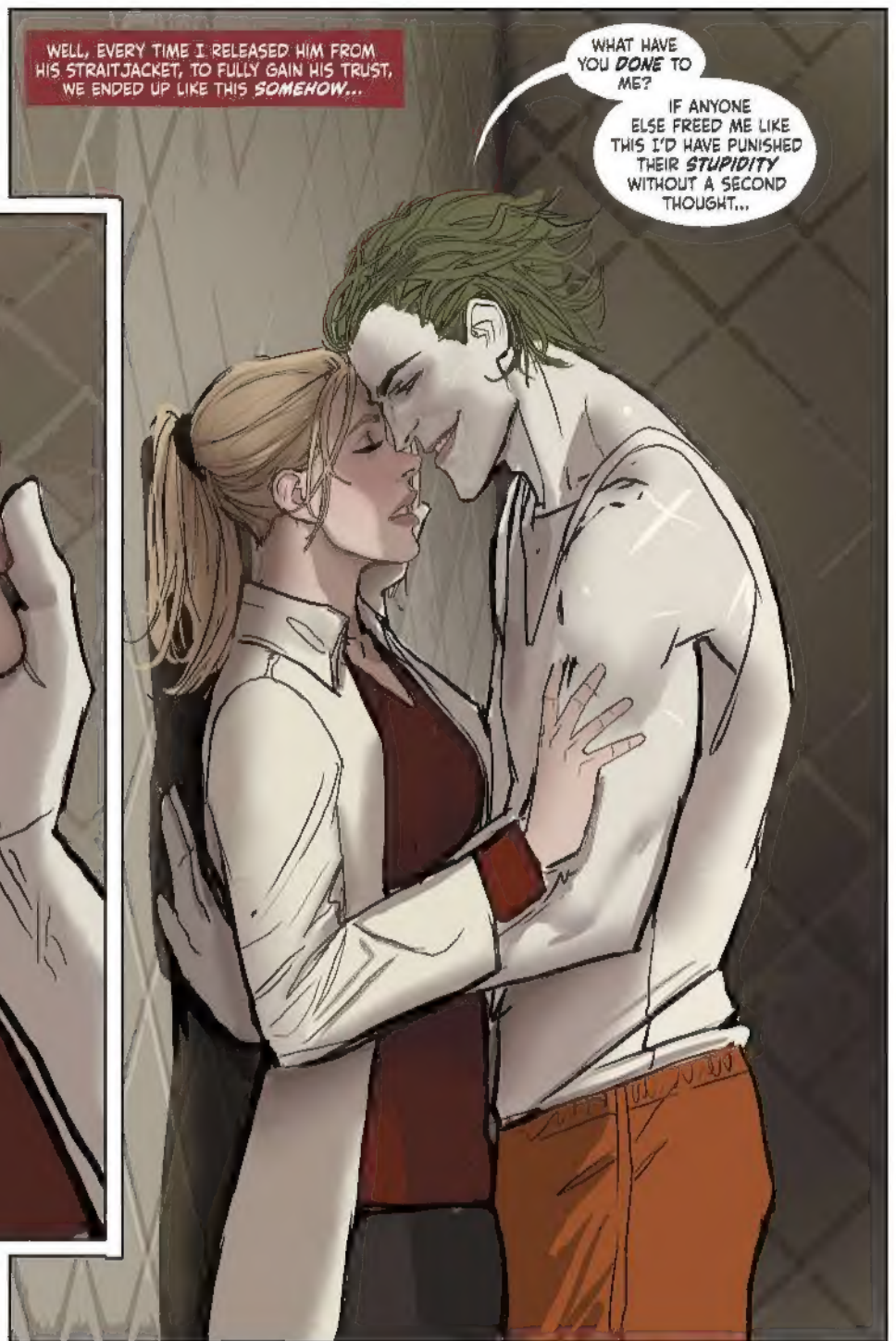
**SIGHE**  
FINE. TELL  
JENNIFER TO HAVE YOU  
SIGN A **WAIVER**. I'M NOT  
HAVING YOU SUE ARKHAM  
ASYLUM JUST BECAUSE  
YOU LIKE LIVING  
DANGEROUSLY.



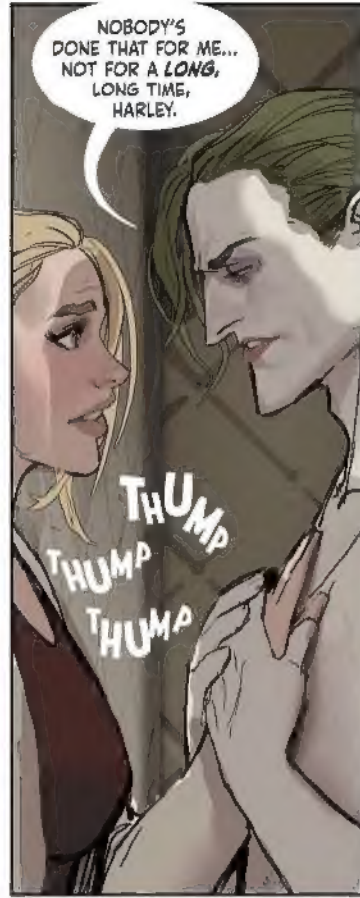
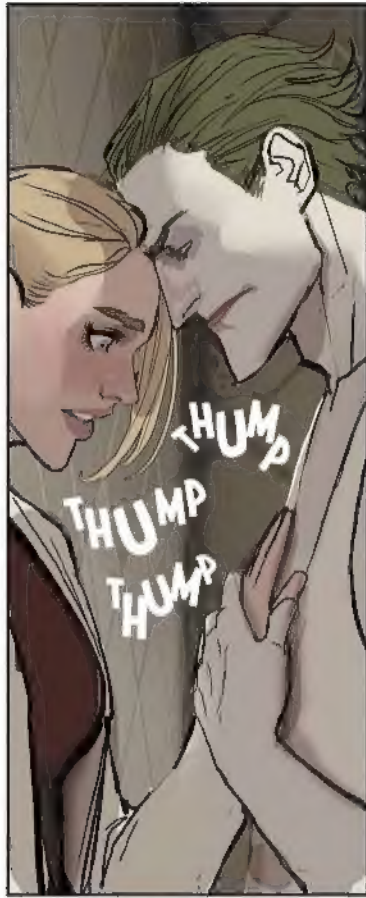
I DON'T LIKE LIVING  
DANGEROUSLY!

AND I HONESTLY  
MEANT THAT.





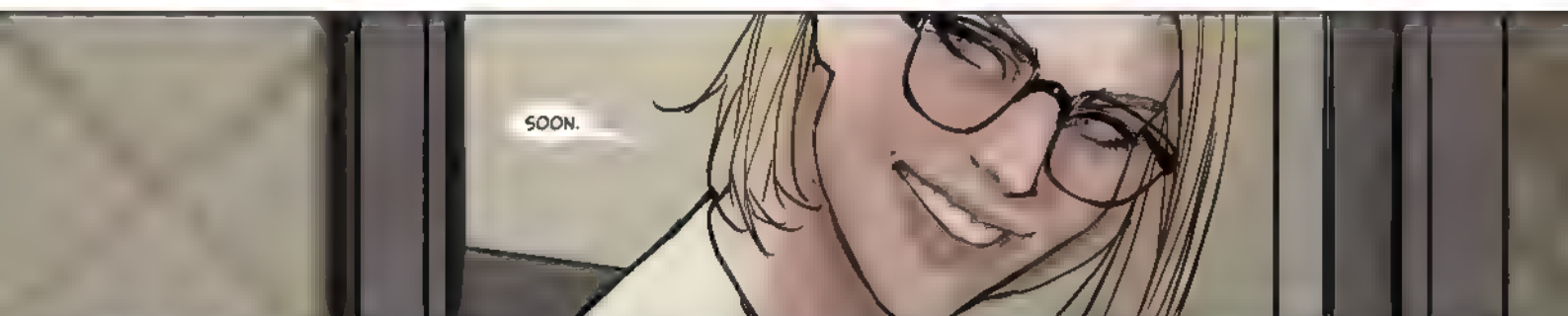
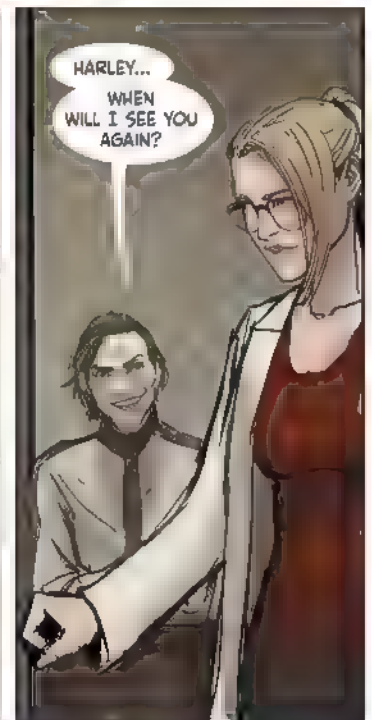
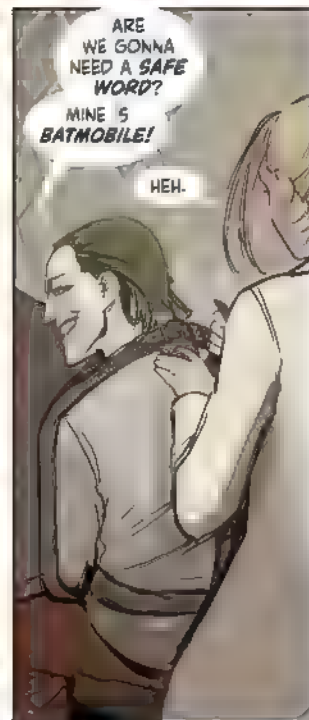
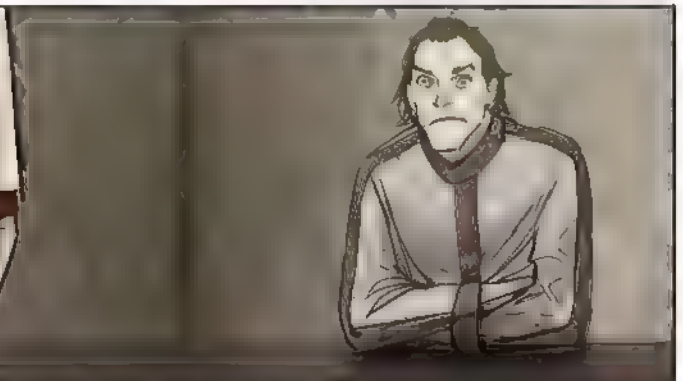
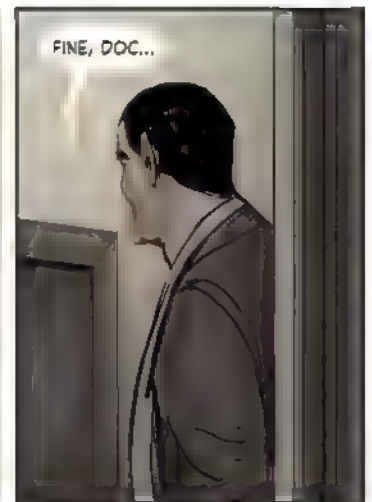
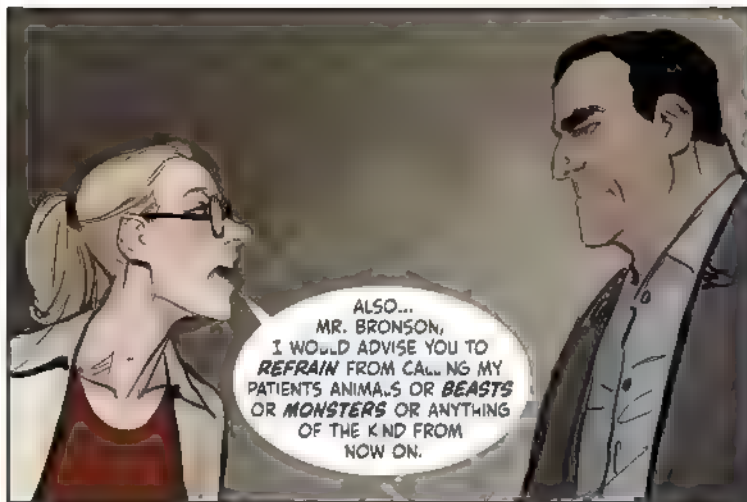




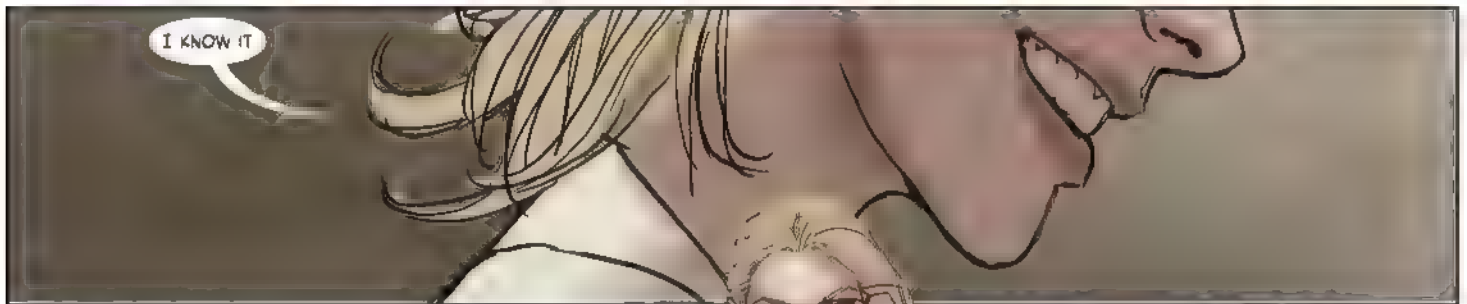
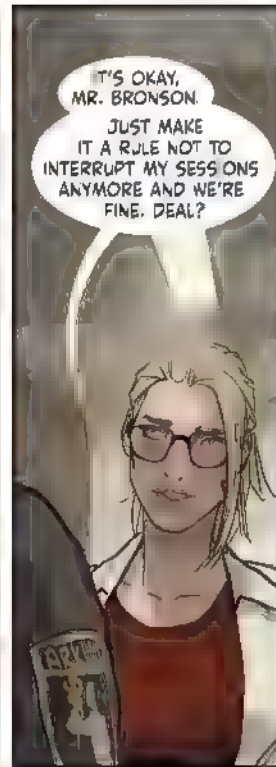












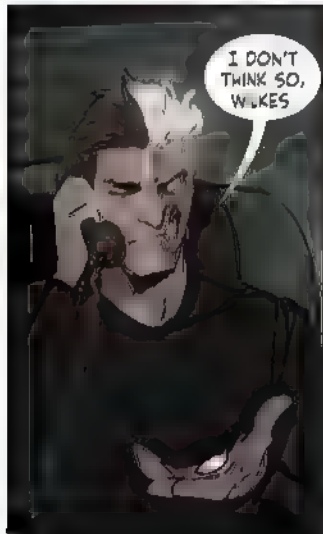
IT'S MY SMILE, DR. STRANGE... IT MAKES HIS HEART BEAT FASTER.

AND THAT'S HOW I KNOW I CAN HELP HIM. IN FACT, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN.

I'M THE JOKER'S DOCTOR.









KNOCK KNOCK

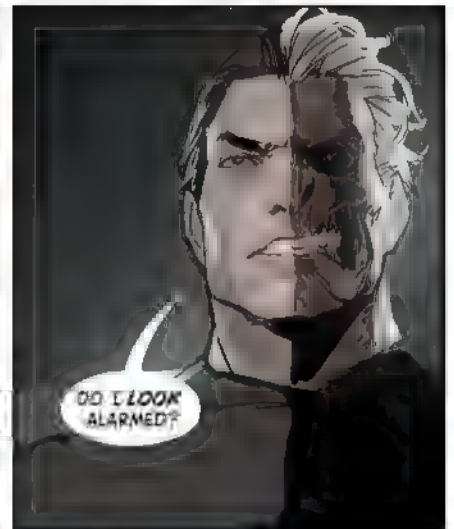
MR. DENT!  
G.C.P.D.!



JUST A  
SECOND



EVENING,  
SIR. NO CAUSE  
FOR ALARM,  
I ASSURE  
YOU.

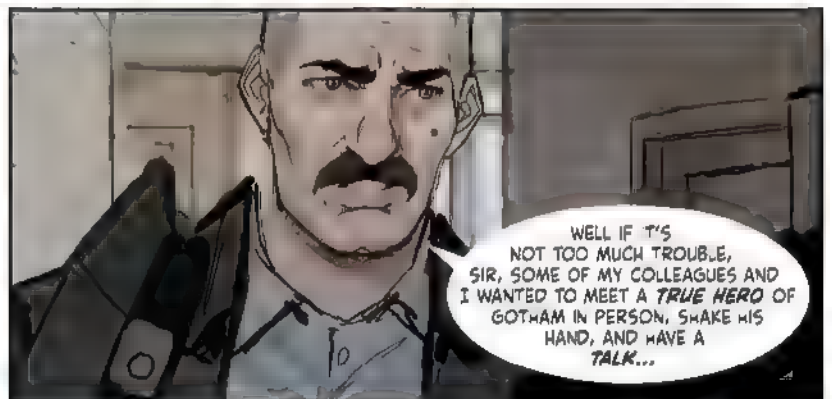


DO I LOOK  
ALARMED?



NO, SIR!

RIGHT...SO  
WHAT CAN I DO  
FOR YOU?



WELL IF T'S  
NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE,  
SIR, SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES AND  
I WANTED TO MEET A **TRUE HERO** OF  
GOTHAM IN PERSON, SHAKE HIS  
HAND, AND HAVE A  
**TALK...**



SEE, WE ALL  
WATCHED YOUR BIG SPEECH  
ON TV AND...WELL, WE HAPPEN  
TO **SHARE** YOUR VIEWS ON  
GOTHAM'S PROBLEMS  
WITH CRIME.

WE THOUGHT  
THAT MAYBE TOGETHER,  
UNDER YOUR **LEADERSHIP**,  
WE COULD IMPLEMENT A  
**PERMANENT**  
SOLUTION



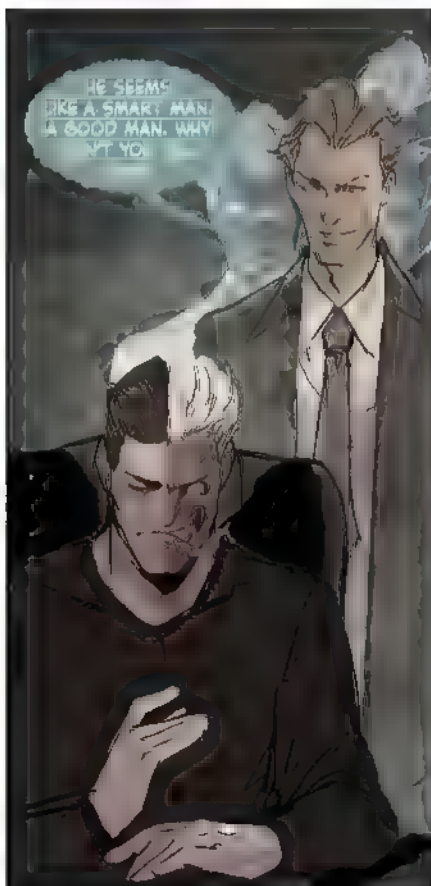


THAT'S RIGHT, AND YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY LED THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE FALCONE FAMILY IN YOUR SECOND YEAR AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

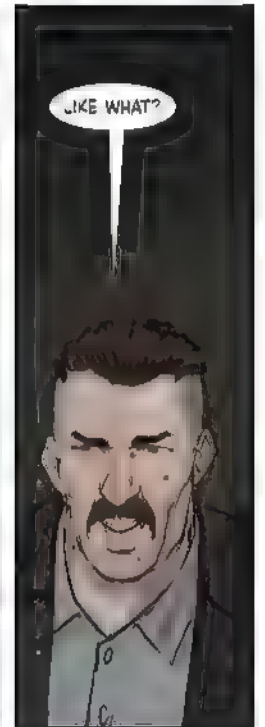
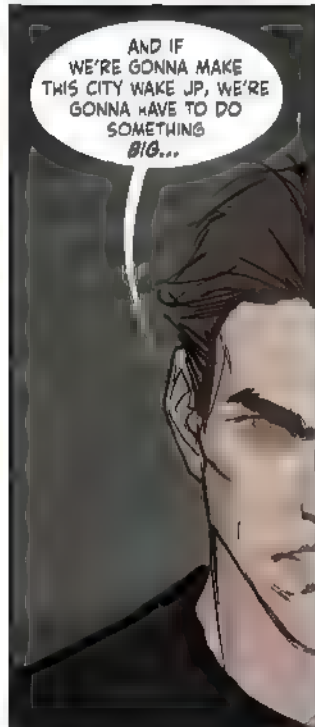
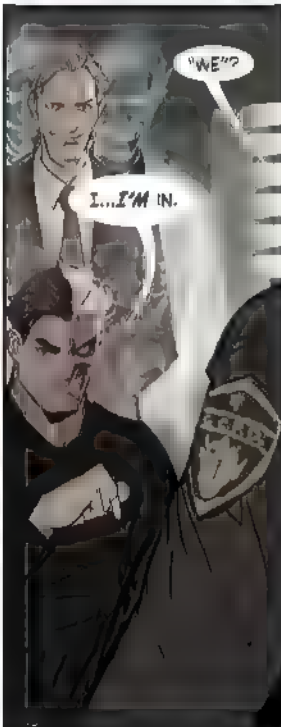
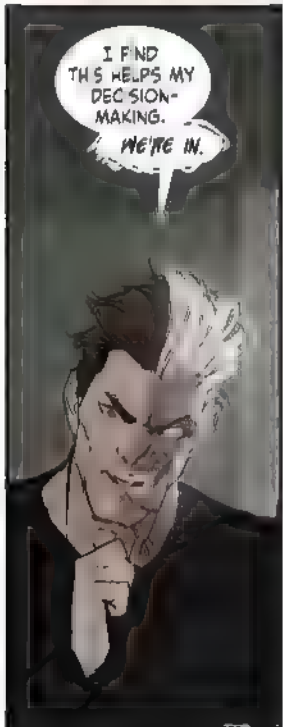
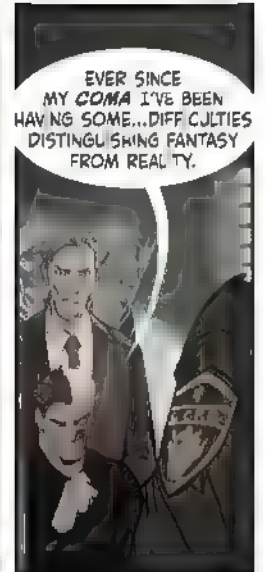
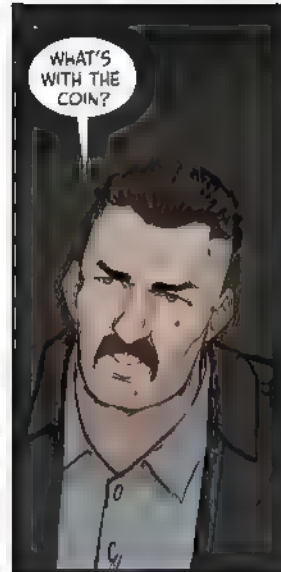
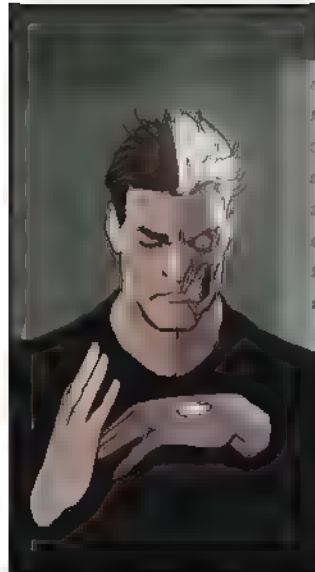
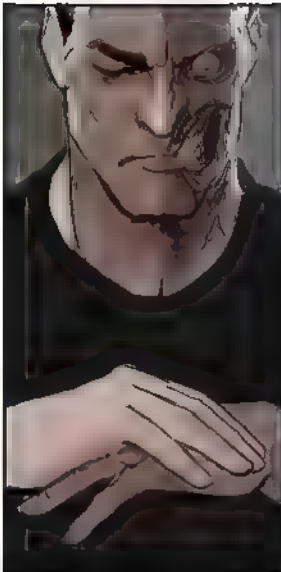
I WAS THERE, SIR.

THE WAY WE SEE IT, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS **PROSECUTE**. POINT US AT THE GUILTY PARTIES AND WE'LL DO THE REST.

AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHAT THE EXECUTIONERS ARE FOR.







I FIND  
THIS HELPS MY  
DECISION-  
MAKING.  
WE'RE IN.

I...I'M IN.

"WE"?

AND IF  
WE'RE GONNA MAKE  
THIS CITY WAKE UP, WE'RE  
GONNA HAVE TO DO  
SOMETHING  
BIG...

SOMETHING  
THAT WILL FORCE THEIR  
HAND MAKE THEM  
AFRAID  
ACT!

LIKE WHAT?

GOOTHAN'S GREATEST  
PROBLEM HAS ALWAYS BEEN ITS  
POLITICAL CORRUPTION AROUND  
IMPLEMENTING THE DEATH  
PENALTY.

THE ONE  
TRUE SOLUTION  
TO OUR CITY'S UNIQUE  
BRAND OF REPEAT  
OFFENDERS.

SO I SAY  
WE LET LOOSE  
THE MONSTERS

ALL OF THEM.  
WE STAGE THE GREATEST  
PRISON BREAKOUT EVER,  
SETTING ALL THIS CITY'S  
MONSTERS BACK  
UPON IT

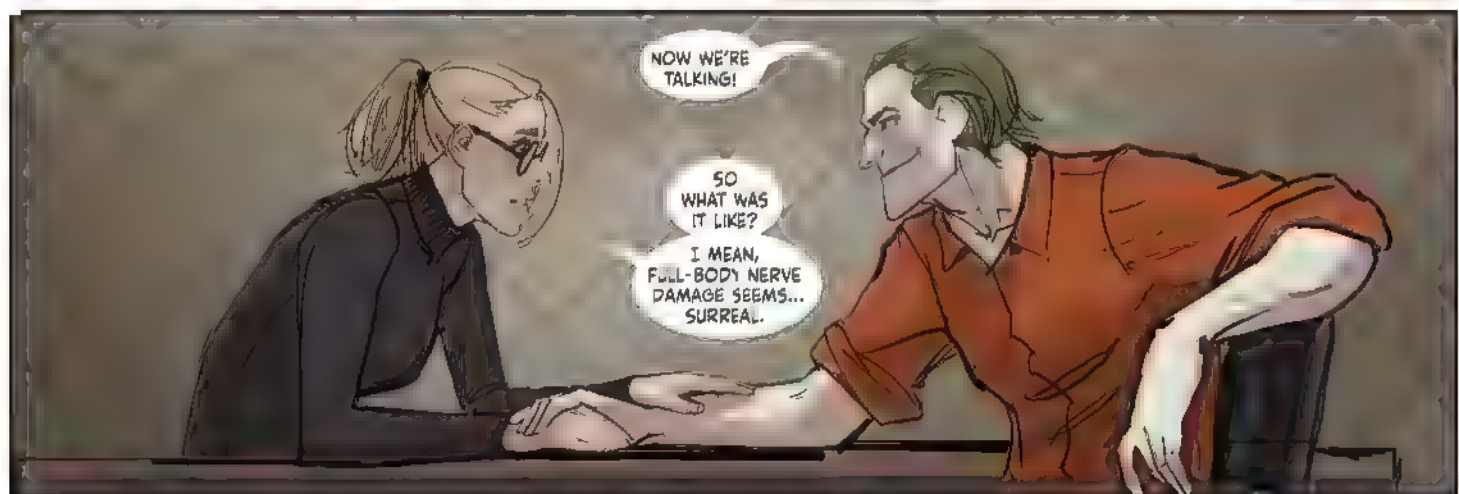
A NIGHT OF  
BLOOD TO FORCE  
THE POLITICIANS  
TO ACT!

WE'LL  
HAVE ONE CHANCE,  
THOUGH ONE CHOICE.

SO...HEADS,  
IT'S BLACKGATE  
PENITENTIARY

TAILS...

# ARKHAM ASYLUM.

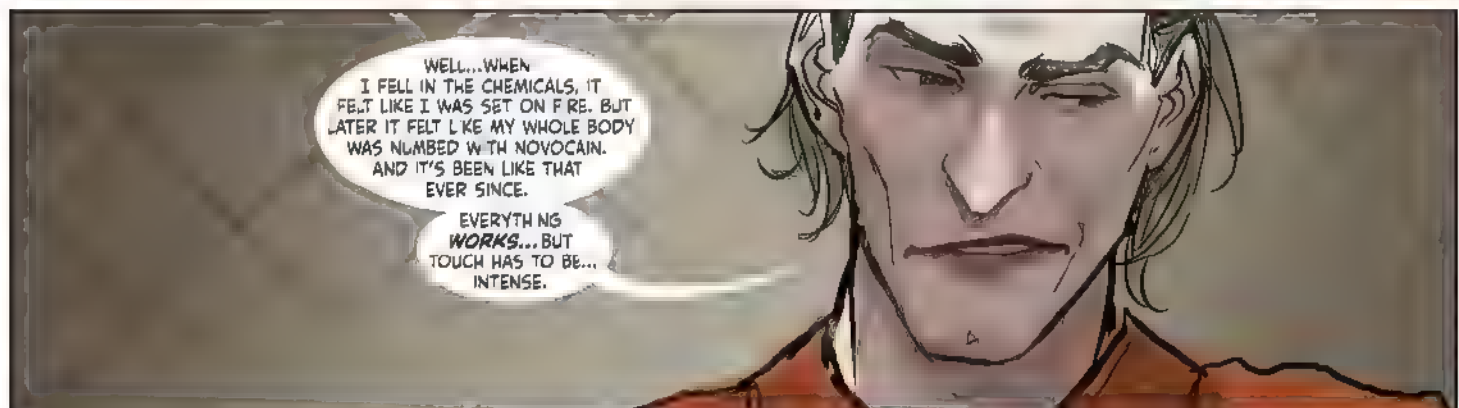


NOW WE'RE TALKING!

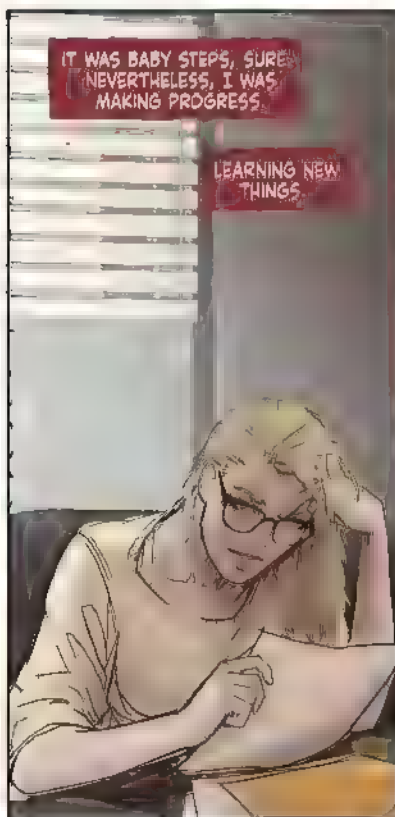
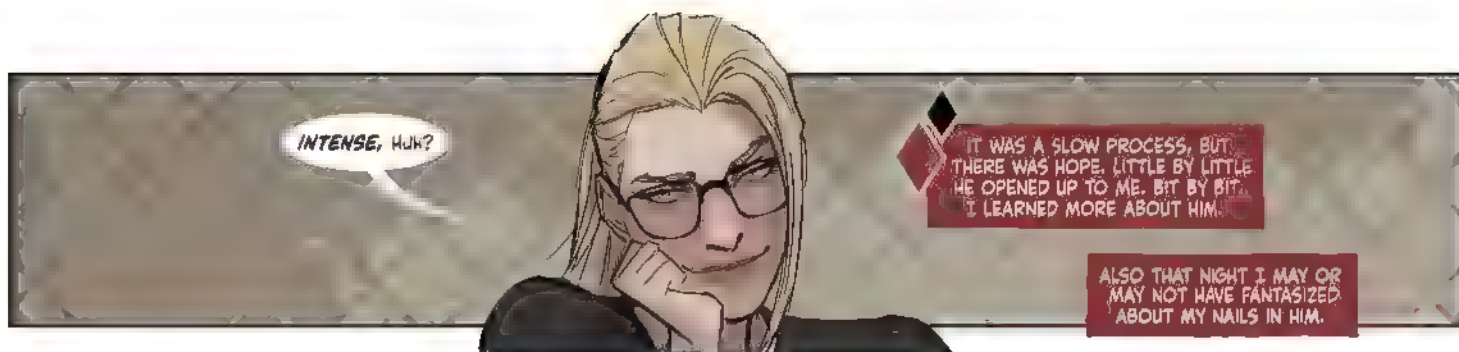
SO WHAT WAS IT LIKE?  
I MEAN, FULL-BODY NERVE DAMAGE SEEMS... SURREAL.

WELL...WHEN I FELL IN THE CHEMICALS, IT FELT LIKE I WAS SET ON FIRE. BUT LATER IT FELT LIKE MY WHOLE BODY WAS NUMBED WITH NOVOCAIN. AND IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE.

EVERYTHING WORKS...BUT TOUCH HAS TO BE... INTENSE.







WEEKS TURNED TO MONTHS. EVEN THOUGH MY SCHEDULE SAID *SESSIONS*, WHAT WE SHARED WERE *DATES*...MINUS THE WINING AND DINING, AND WITH EXCESSIVE SECURITY RESTRAINTS THROWN INTO THE MIX.

AND YES, I'M *AWARE* THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOME DEVELOPING *FETISH*...

SO THE JACKET STAYS ON TODAY?

YEAH, I WANT TO GET SOME WORK DONE AND YOU GET HANDSY.

POT? KETTLE?

HAHEM

BUT THAT WASN'T IT. TRUTH WAS I HAD *FALLEN IN LOVE*. IT WAS A THOUGHT THAT WOULD'VE TERRIFIED ME ONCE, BUT NOW MADE ME START EVERY DAY WITH A SMILE.

I EVEN RECEIVED NEWS THAT THE FINANCIAL BOARD WAS ALLOCATING MORE WAYNE GRANT MONEY TO MY RESEARCH, MEANING ASSISTANTS AND EQUIPMENT! IT WAS ALL WITHIN MY REACH!

EVERYTHING WAS COMING UP HARLEY!

WELL, ALMOST EVERYTHING.

I DON'T KNOW...THE GUY IS JUST CREEPY.

I GUESS T'S GOOD THAT HE'S HERE TO INTERROGATE THE JOKER AND NOT YOU.

INTERROGATE? WAIT, PR YEA, WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE BATMAN.

HE'S HERE? WITH JAY?

UH, YEAH?

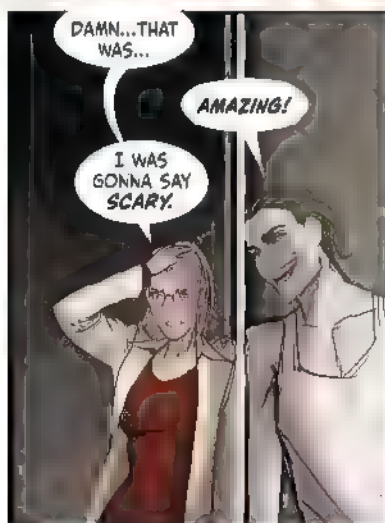
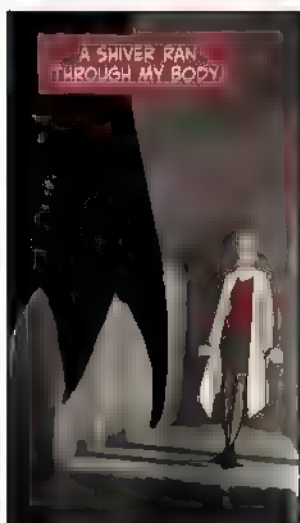
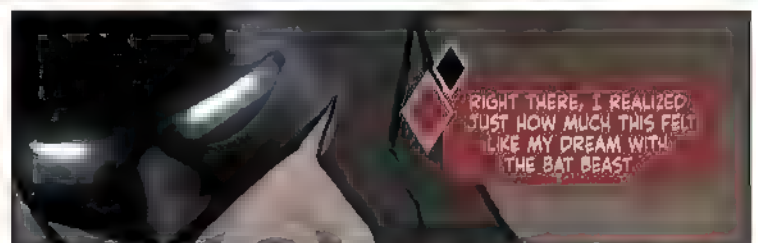
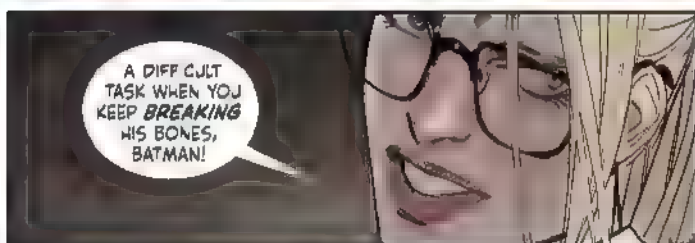
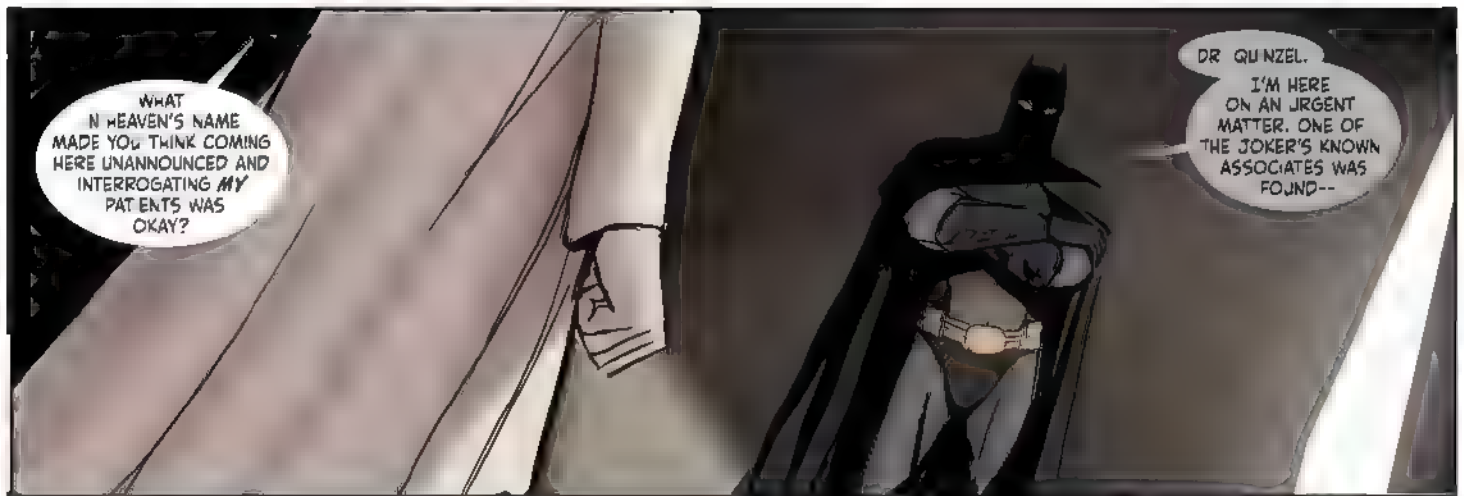
WHO AUTHORIZED THIS?!

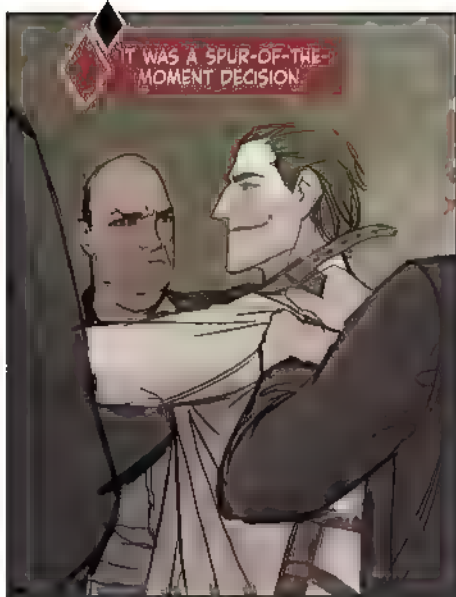
UM... NOBODY? HE'S BATMAN!

OH FOR FUCK'S SAKE!

GET AWAY FROM MY PATIENT!







IT WAS A SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT DECISION.



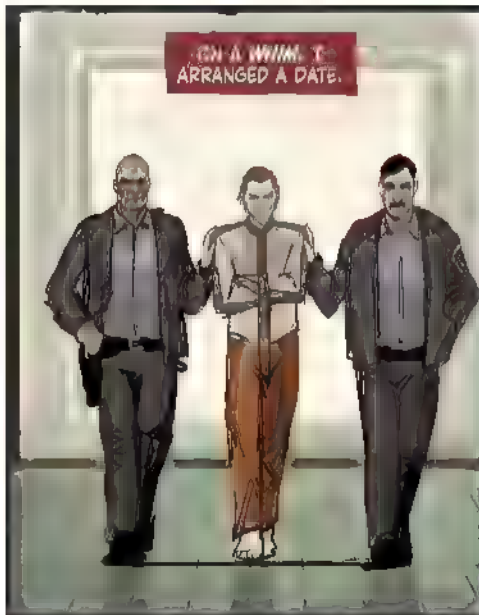
AND I'D BEEN ON THE SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT PILL FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.



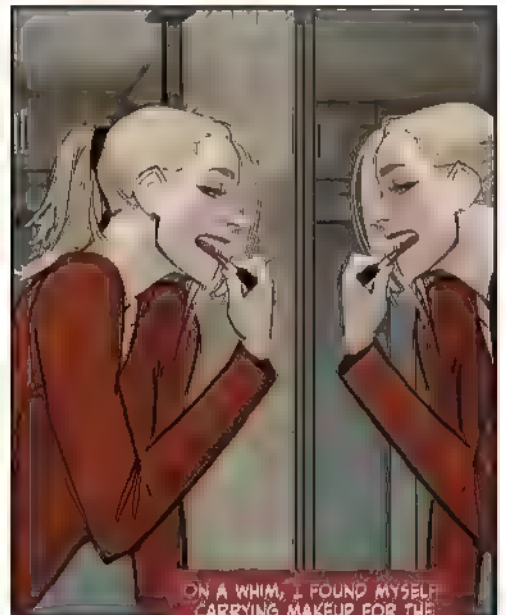
BECAUSE HE WAS THE SUBJECT OF MOST OF MY SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT WAKING THOUGHTS.



NOTHING PREMEDITATED ABOUT IT.



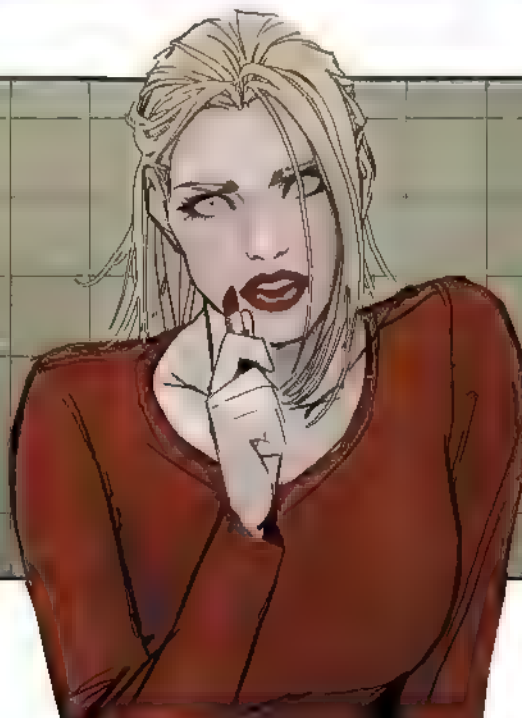
ON A WHIM, I ARRANGED A DATE.



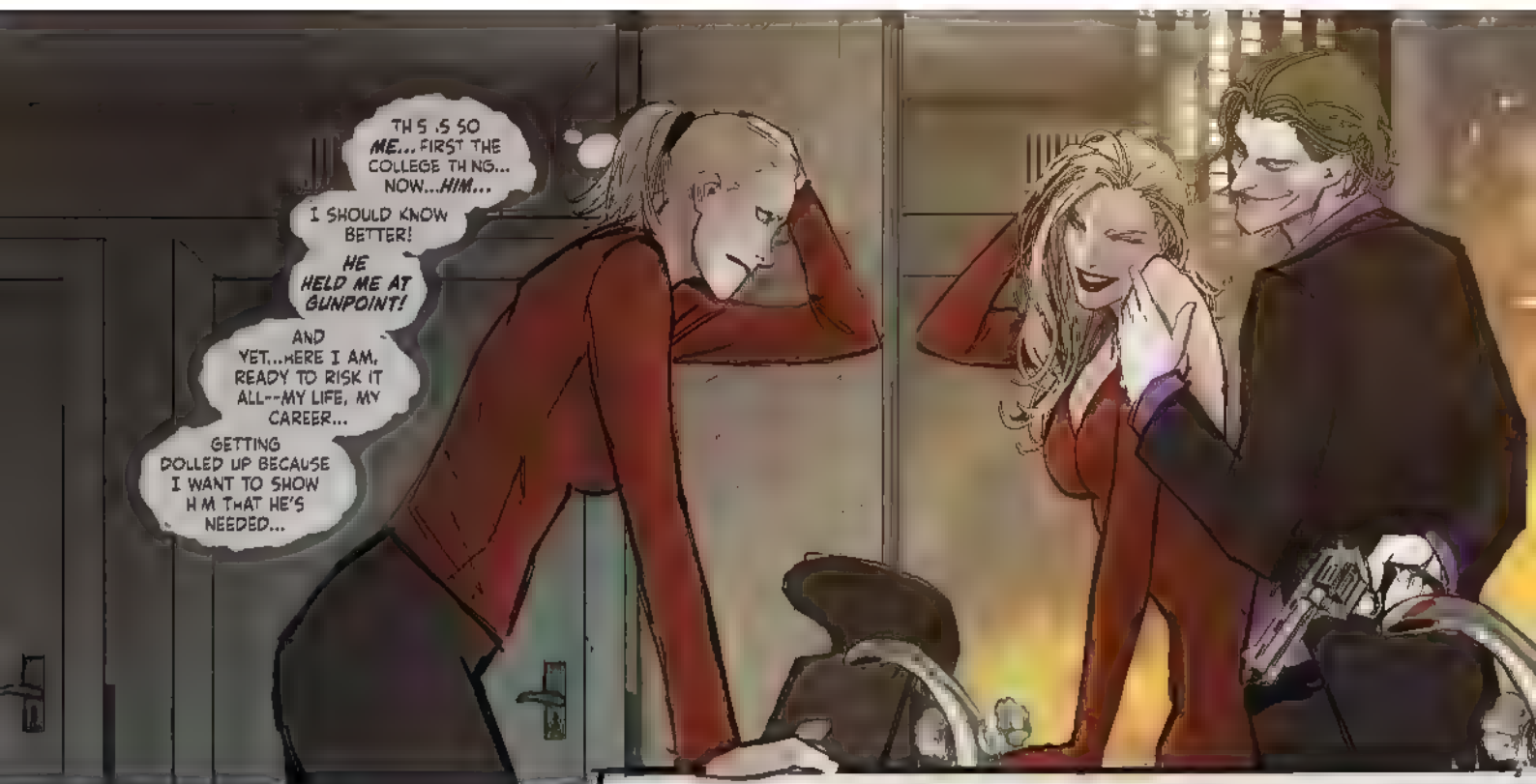
ON A WHIM, I FOUND MYSELF CARRYING MAKEUP FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE COLLEGE.

AND MY OH MY, WHO KNEW WHERE MY NEXT WHIM MIGHT TAKE ME...

OH MY GOD, HARLEY! WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?







SO YOU  
BELIEVE THERE IS  
HOPE FOR  
THEM?

I HOPE  
THERE IS.

EVEN *THE*  
JOKER?

DO I  
THINK HE CAN BE  
HELPED?  
MANY HAVE  
TRIED.

HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT  
FOR A SECOND. HE DIDN'T  
THINK JAY COULD BE HELPED.

AND IT HAD *INFURIATED* ME.

BECAUSE...IT MADE ME FEEL *GUILTY*.  
BECAUSE I'D FELT THE SAME ONCE.


BUT THAT DAY I SAW HIM  
SMILE AND THOUGHT OF  
BATMAN'S WORDS AGAIN.

MANY HAVE TRIED...ME?  
I'LL *SUCCEED*.

WHY? BECAUSE I  
SIMPLY CARED ABOUT  
HIM *MORE*.

I TRUSTED  
HIM *MORE*.






SO WHAT  
ABOUT THE WHOLE  
"YOU GET HANDSY AND I  
WANT TO GET SOME  
WORK DONE"  
THING?

I'M EXPANDING MY  
METHODOLOGY.

WELL, WHO  
AM I TO DEBATE  
YOUR SCIENTIFIC  
METHOD?

YOU ARE  
THE ONE WITH THE  
SMART GLASSES,  
AFTER ALL.

YOU BETTER  
BELIEVE IT! NOW TAKE OFF  
YOUR CLOTHES! DOCTOR'S  
ORDERS!

A woman with blonde hair is smiling and hugging a man with green hair. The woman's hands are resting on the man's back, and her fingers are slightly curled. The man's head is tilted back, and he appears to be laughing or smiling. The background is dark with red diamond shapes. The woman is wearing a white top, and the man is wearing a dark shirt. The overall mood is joyful and intimate.

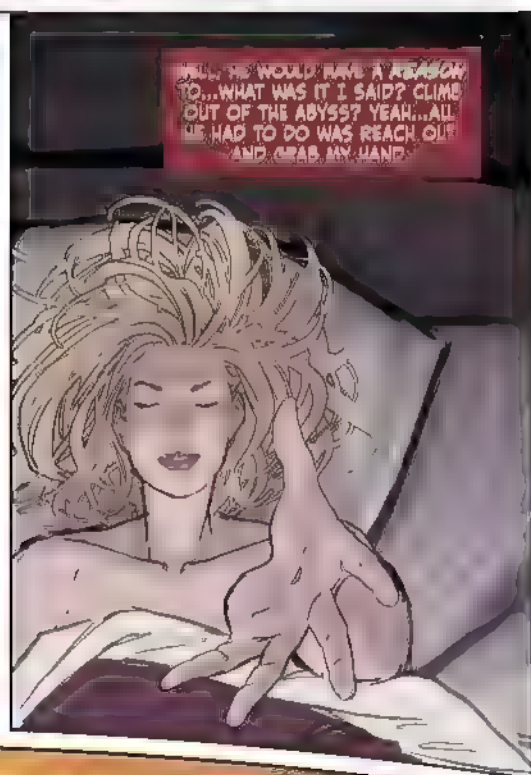
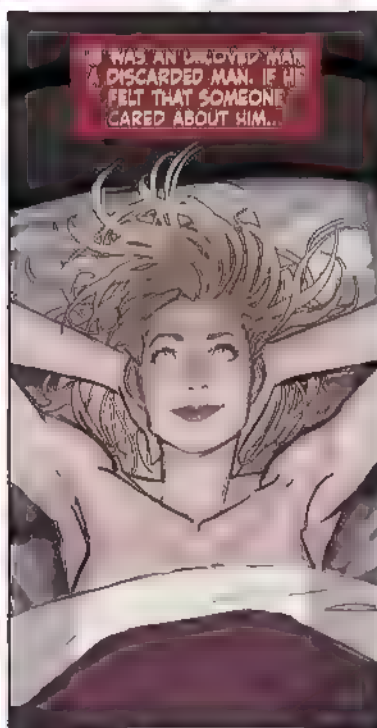
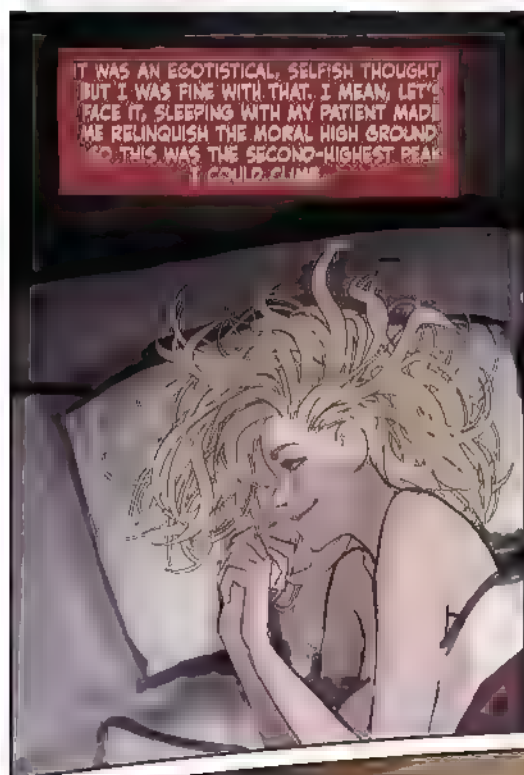
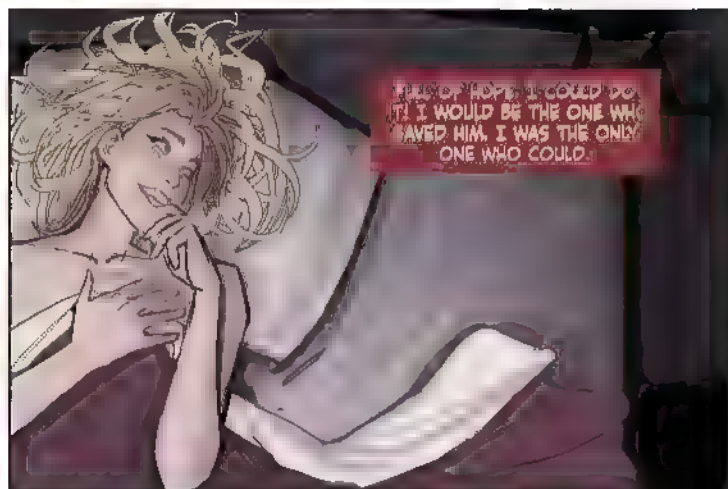
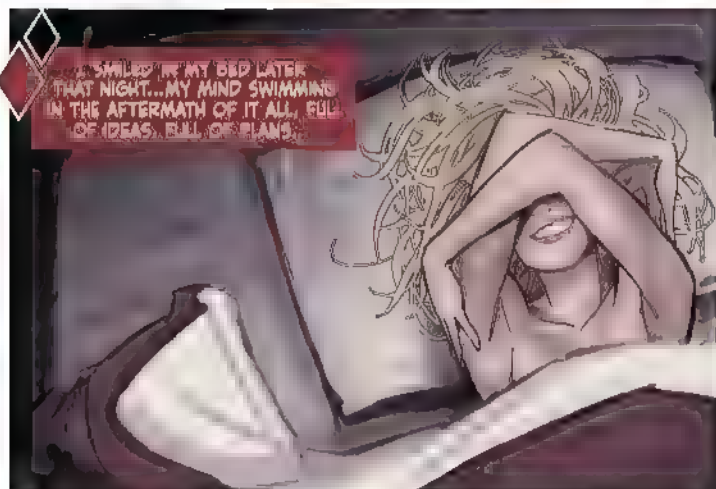
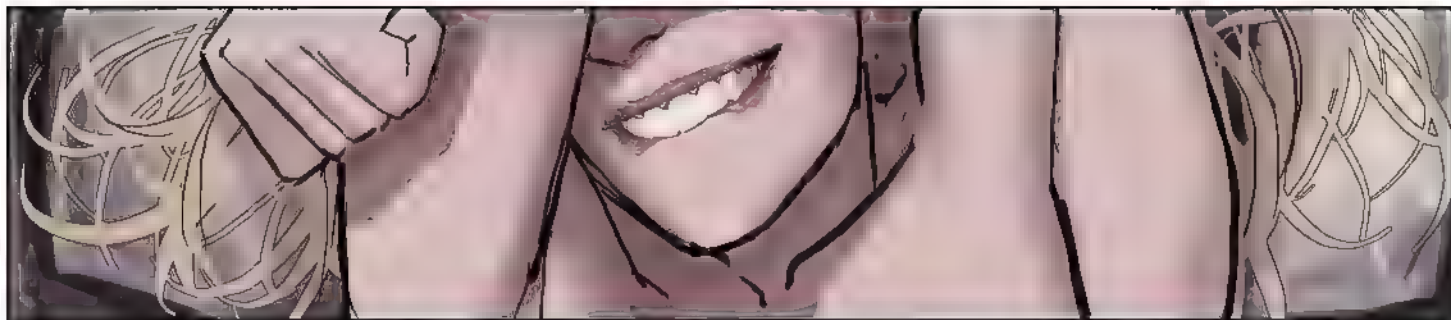
BEFORE I SANK INTO  
THE BLISS, I REMEMBER  
CHUCKLING SOFTLY.

HE WHISPERED,  
WHAT'S FUNNY?

I SAID, I WANTED TO  
HEAL YOUR SCARS,  
BUT HERE I AM ADDING  
SOME OF MY OWN.

I THINK HE SMILED.









BUT UNFORTUNATELY THAT DREAM WAS ABOUT TO END.

IT HAD BEEN FIVE MONTHS SINCE I FIRST MET HARVEY DENT...

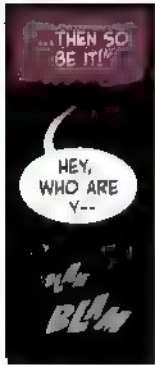
...AND LIKE I SAID, FIVE MONTHS LATER WE'D BOTH BECOME *MURDERERS*.

WELL, I GUESS THIS IS IT. YOU KNOW, BACK IN MY EARLY CAMPAIGNING DAYS, I USED TO SAY, "JUSTICE IS BLINDFOLDED, WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND HER BACK, BUT I'LL MAKE SURE SHE CAN AT LEAST THROW A MEAN RIGHT HOOK."

IT WAS A JOKE. BUT THE TRUTH IS, IN ORDER FOR GOTHAM TO BECOME A CITY OF *LAW AND ORDER*, A RIGHT HOOK IS NOT ENOUGH. WE NEED TO PUT *THE SWORD* BACK IN JUSTICE'S HANDS.

AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, *THAT* IS OUR PURPOSE HERE TONIGHT. WHAT WE DO HERE WE DO FOR THE *FUTURE* OF GOTHAM.

WE WILL UNLEASH HORRORS UPON THE CITY AND THEY WILL SEE, THEY WILL *REALIZE* THAT THE *ONLY* WAY TO STOP THIS MADNESS IS TO DO WHAT *NEEDS* TO BE DONE. EXECUTIONERS! DO YOUR DUTY! AND IF BLOOD *NEEDS* BE SPILLED.



...THEN SO  
BE IT!

HEY,  
WHO ARE  
Y--

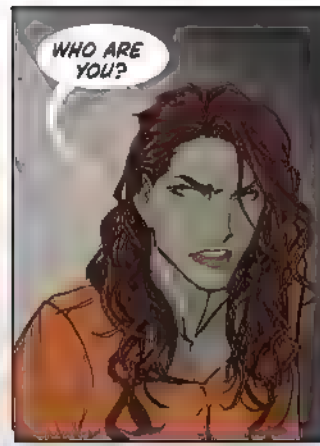
BLA



WAKEY, WAKEY!



WHAT? WHO...



WHO ARE  
YOU?



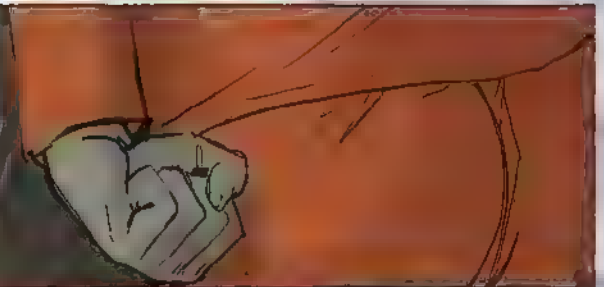
THE  
GROUNDHOG SENT  
JS! SEEMS AN **EARLY**  
SPRING IS IN  
ORDER.



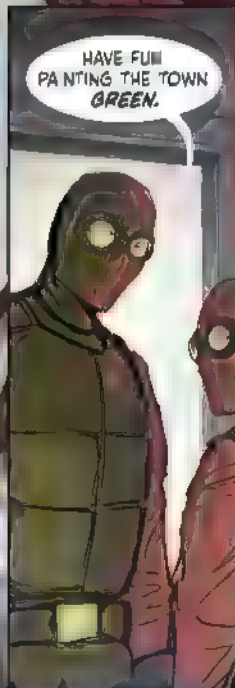
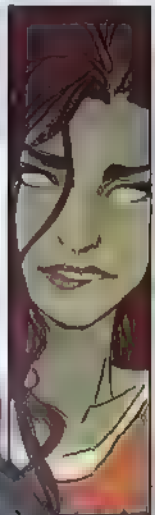
AND HE  
SAYS YOU'RE THE  
ONE TO KICK  
IT OFF.

YOU NEED  
FERTILE SOIL TO  
DO YOUR...**THING**,  
RIGHT?

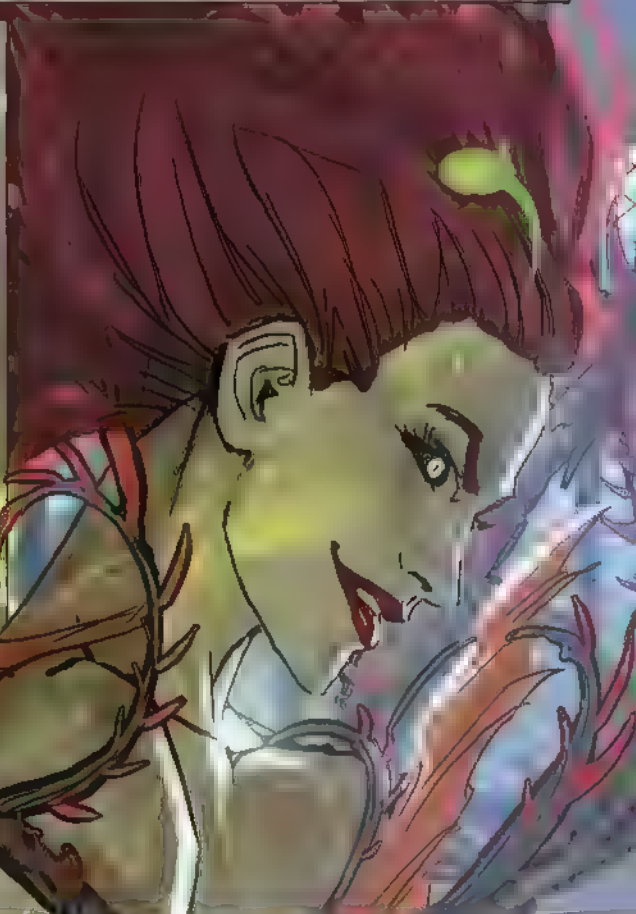
Y-YES?



THIS  
SHOULD GET YOU  
STARTED.

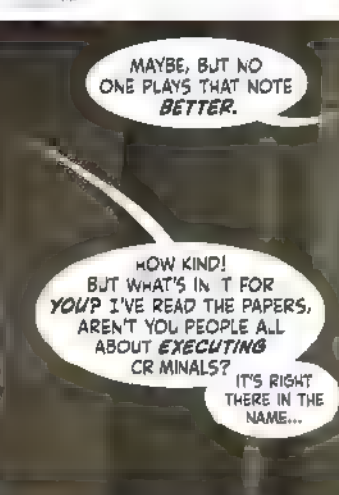
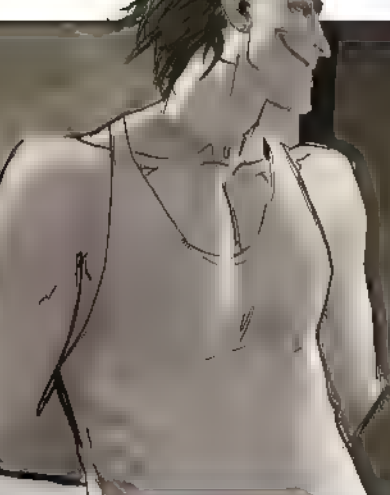
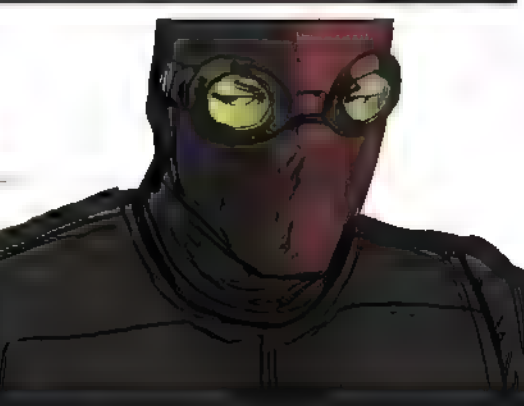
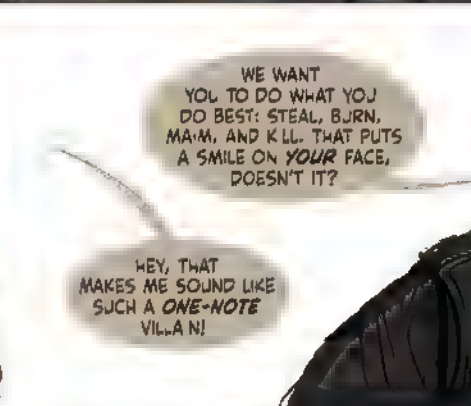
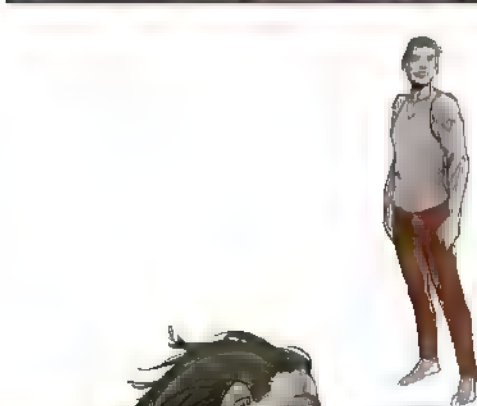
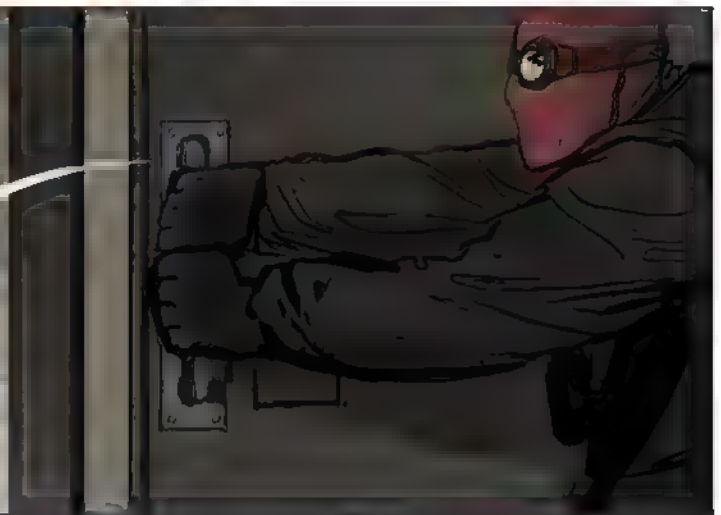


HAVE FUN  
PAINTING THE TOWN  
**GREEN**.

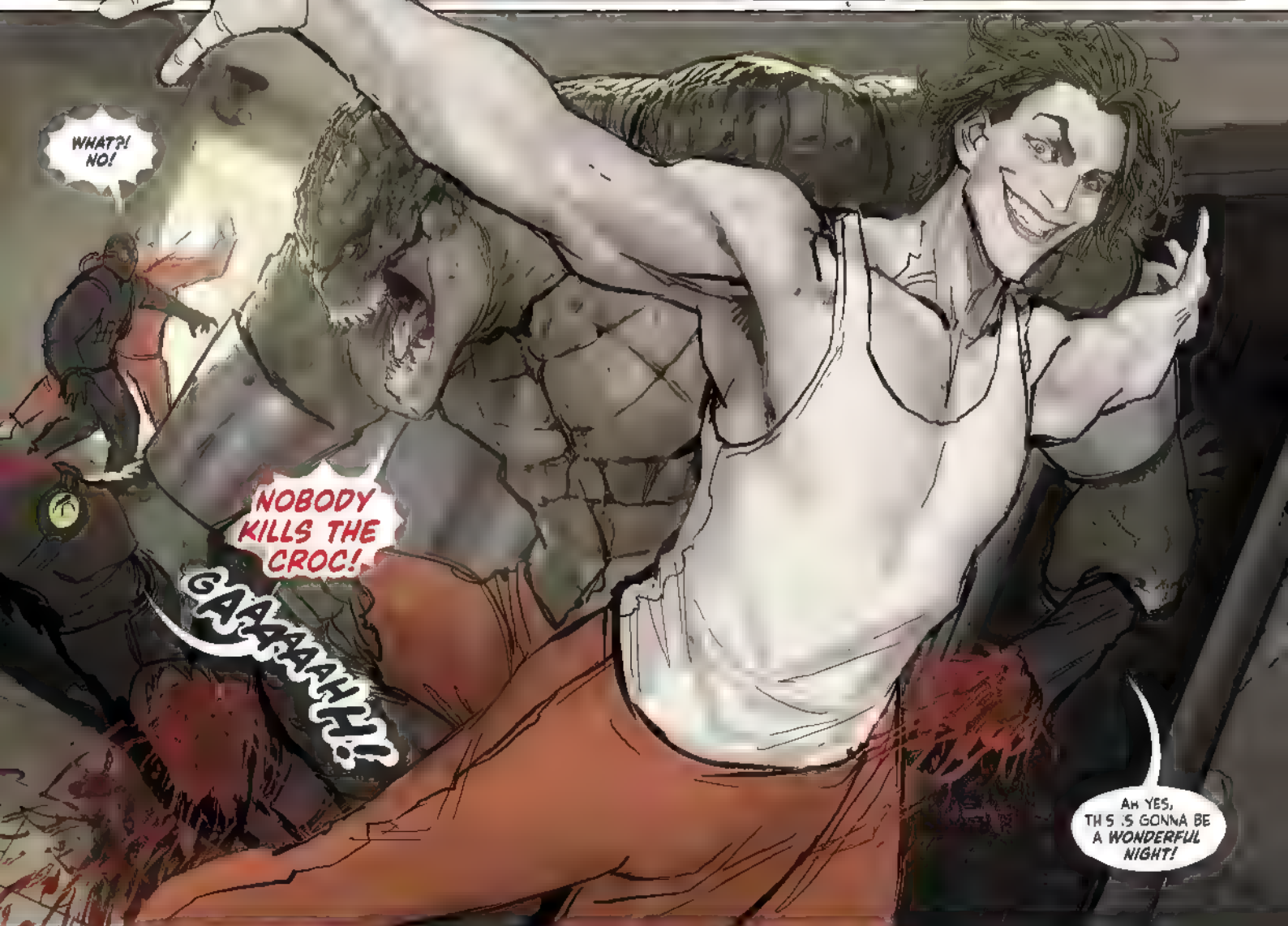


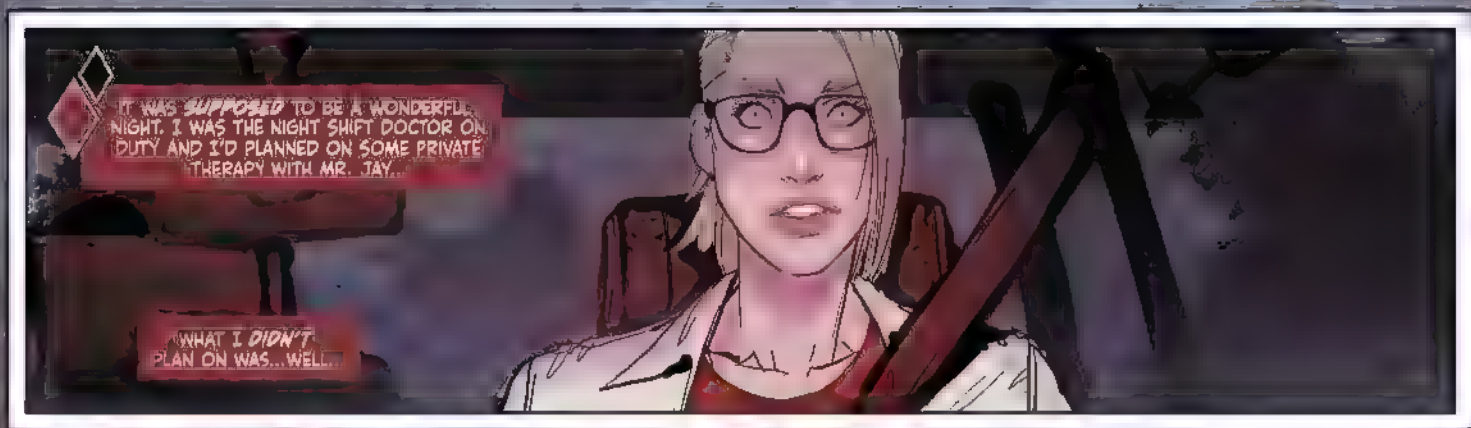












IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A WONDERFUL NIGHT. I WAS THE NIGHT SHIFT DOCTOR ON DUTY AND I'D PLANNED ON SOME PRIVATE THERAPY WITH MR. JAY...

WHAT I DIDN'T PLAN ON WAS... WELL...



ARMAGEDDON

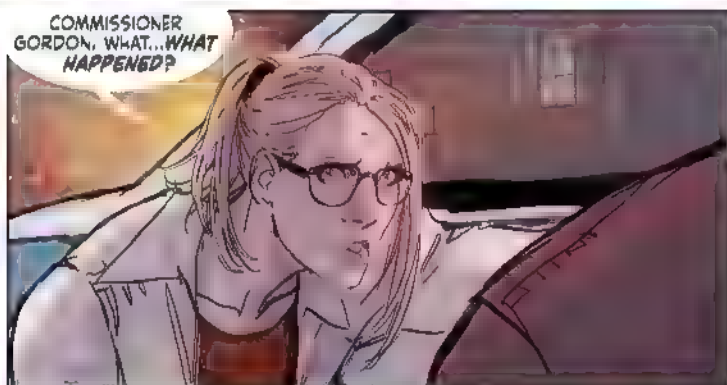
ARE YOU CRAZY? GET THAT WATER CANNON OUT OF HERE! IF MR. FREEZE GETS TO IT WE'RE FUCKED!

COMMISSIONER! A CIVILIAN!

WHAT?!



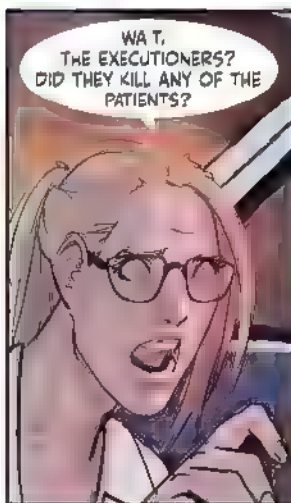
DOCTOR, STAY DOWN!



COMMISSIONER GORDON, WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED?



WHAT DIDN'T HAPPEN?! WE GOT A CALL FROM STRANGE, THE EXECUTIONERS BROKE N--

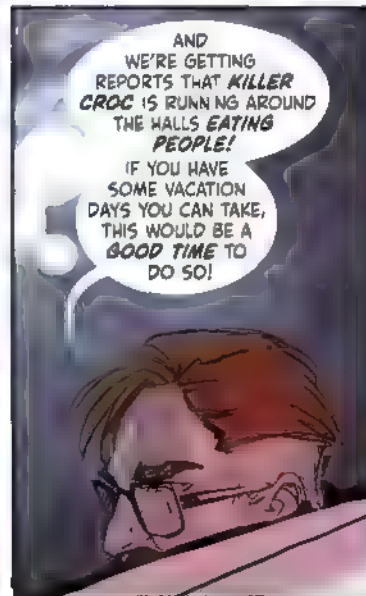
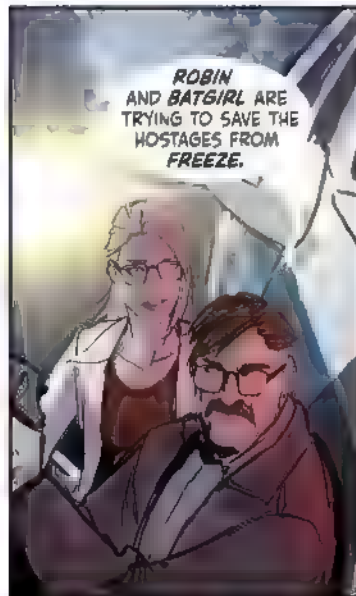


WAT, THE EXECUTIONERS? DID THEY KILL ANY OF THE PATIENTS?



WHAT? NO! THEY SET THEM FREE! THE INMATES ARE TEAMING UP AND TAKING HOSTAGES! THEY'VE STOLEN THEIR WEAPONS BACK AND NOW ALL HELL HAS BROKEN LOOSE!







LOVE MAKES YOU  
DO CRAZY THINGS

I WAS NEVER  
BRAVE. NEVER HAD  
A REASON TO BE.

THAT DAY, AS I RAN INTO  
THE HAUNTING DARKNESS OF  
AN ARKHAM CROWNED BY  
FIRE... I FOUND MY REASON.

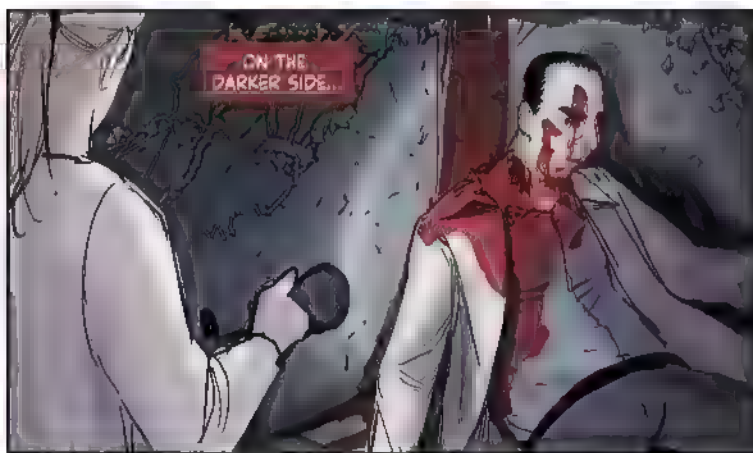


THE POWER WAS  
OUT. IN A STRANGE  
WAY, MAYBE IT WAS  
FOR THE BEST.

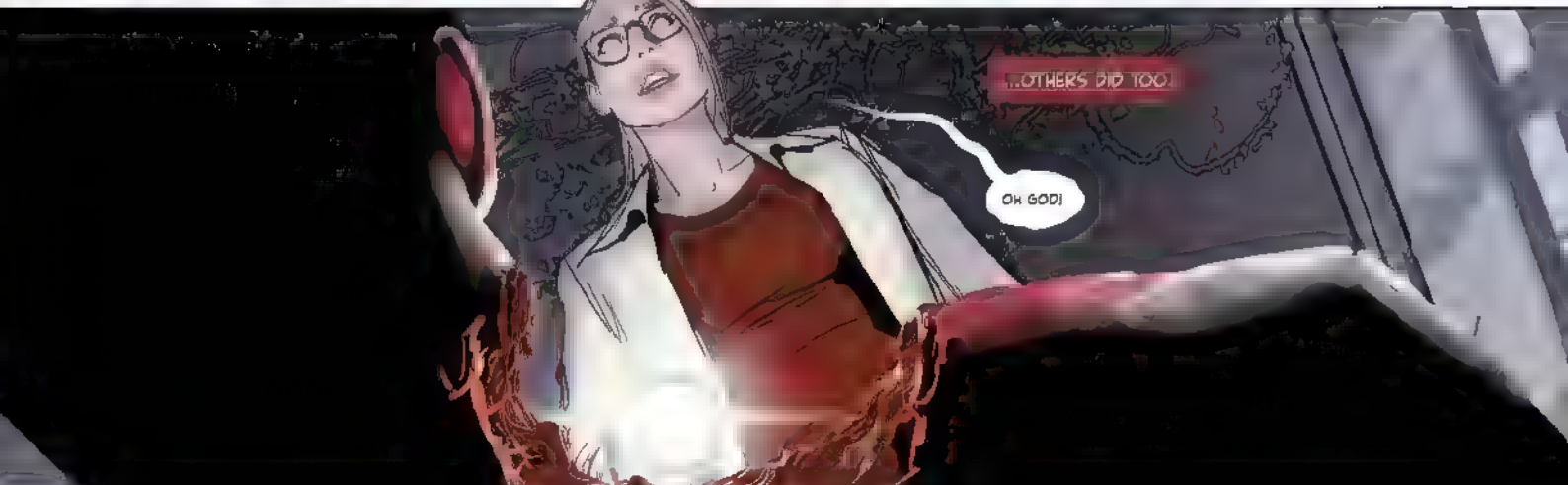
GORDON SAID THE CAMERAS WERE  
OPERATIONAL, WHICH MEANT THE  
SECURITY STATION WAS STILL RUNNING  
ON ITS OWN EMERGENCY GENERATOR.  
I MADE MY WAY THERE, TRYING  
TO FIND JAY.



ON THE HEIGHT SIDE,  
BY THEN I KNEW MY  
WAY AROUND ARKHAM.



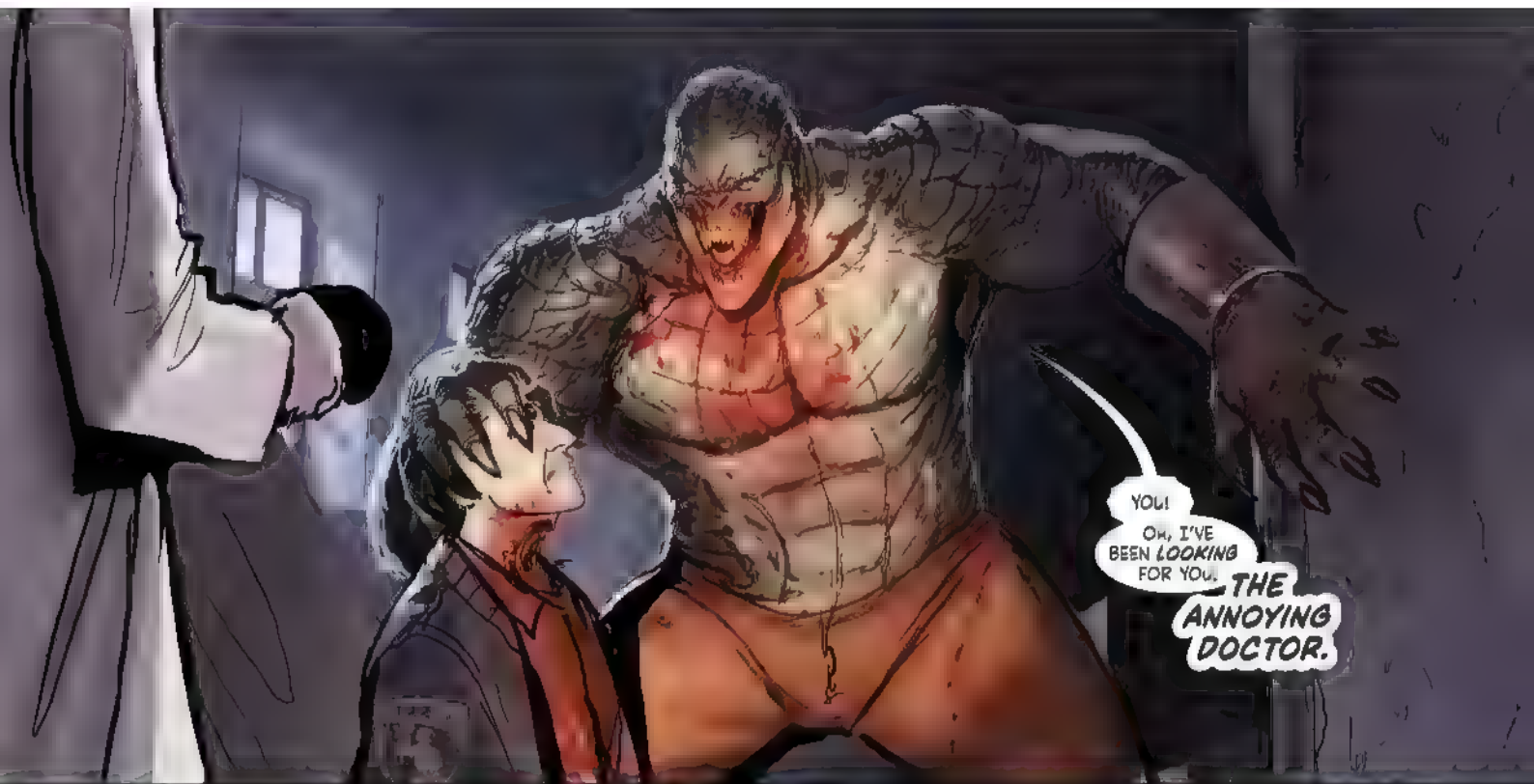
ON THE  
DARKER SIDE...



...OTHERS DID TOO!

OH GOD!



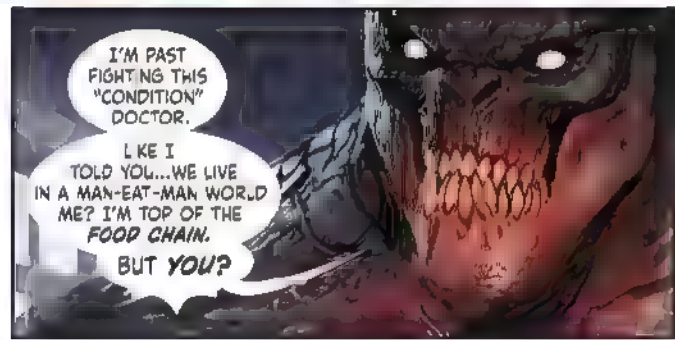


WAYLOW, STOP! YOUR...  
YOUR CONDIT ON DOESN'T  
HAVE TO DEFINE  
YOU!



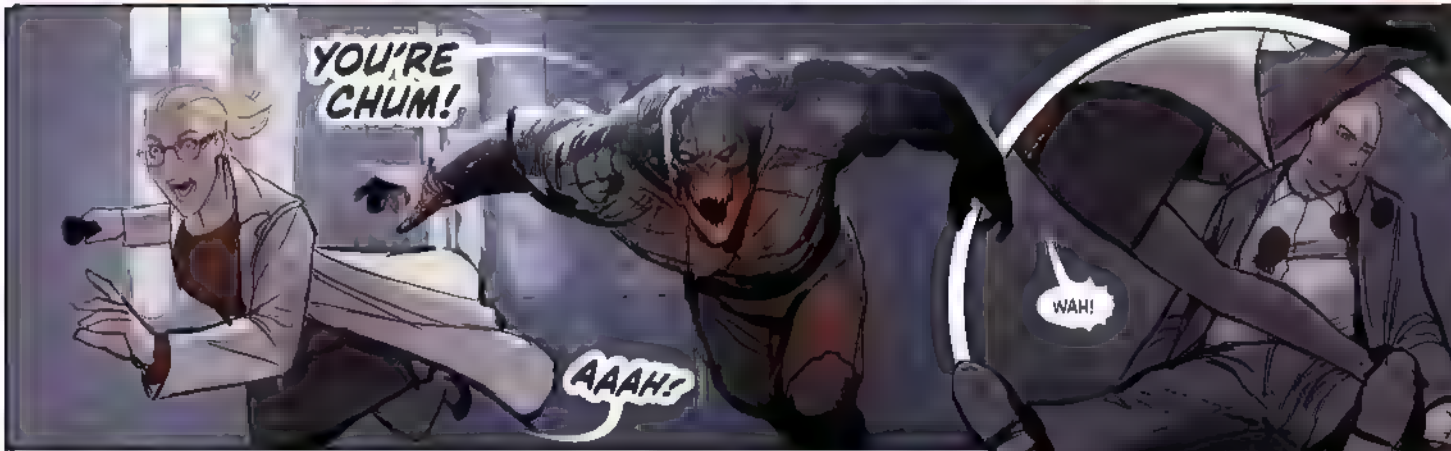
I'M PAST  
FIGHTING THIS  
"CONDITION"  
DOCTOR.

L KE I  
TOLD YOU...WE LIVE  
IN A MAN-EAT-MAN WORLD  
ME? I'M TOP OF THE  
FOOD CHAIN.  
BUT YOU?



**YOU'RE  
CHUM!**

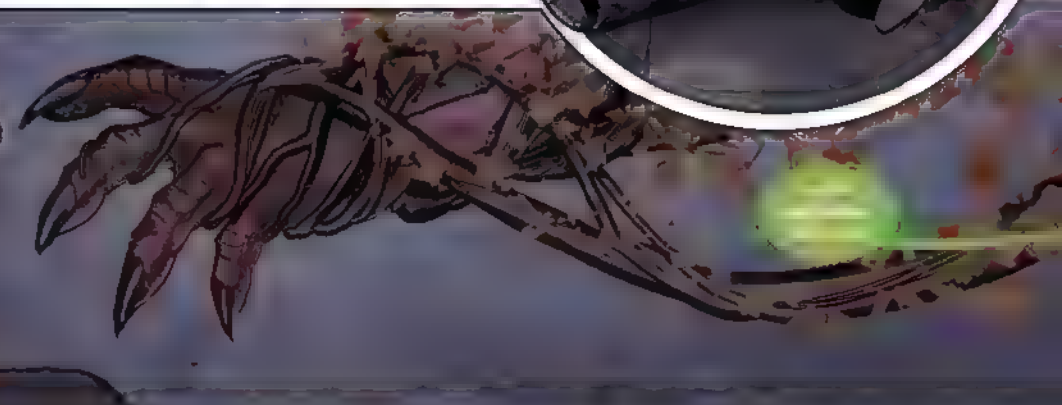
**AAAH?**

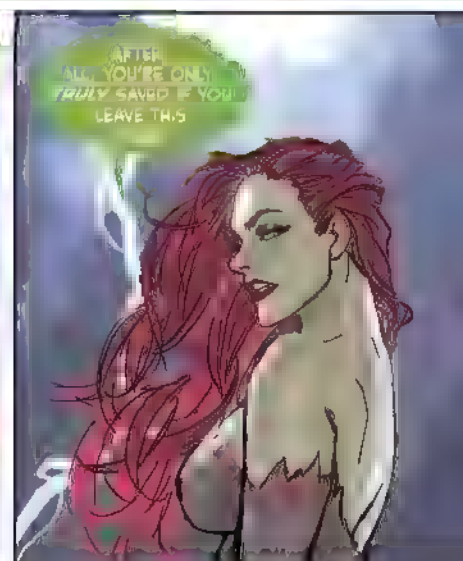
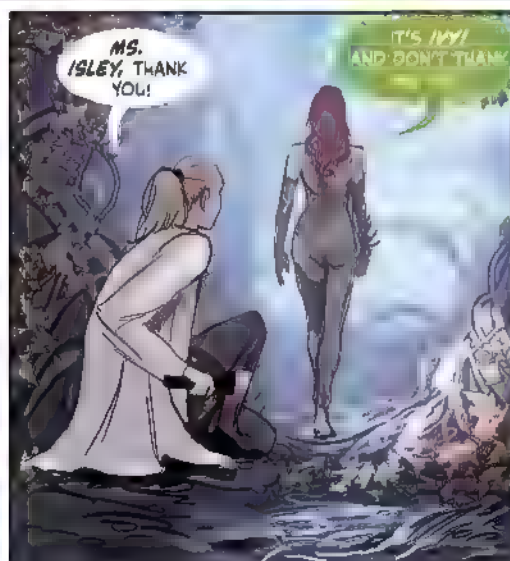
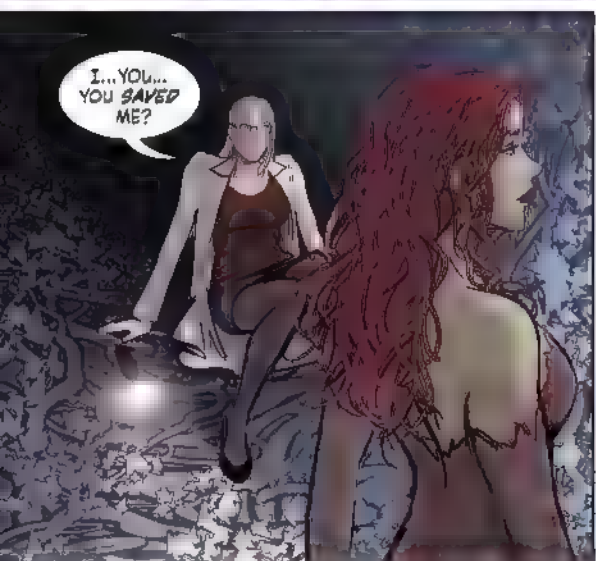
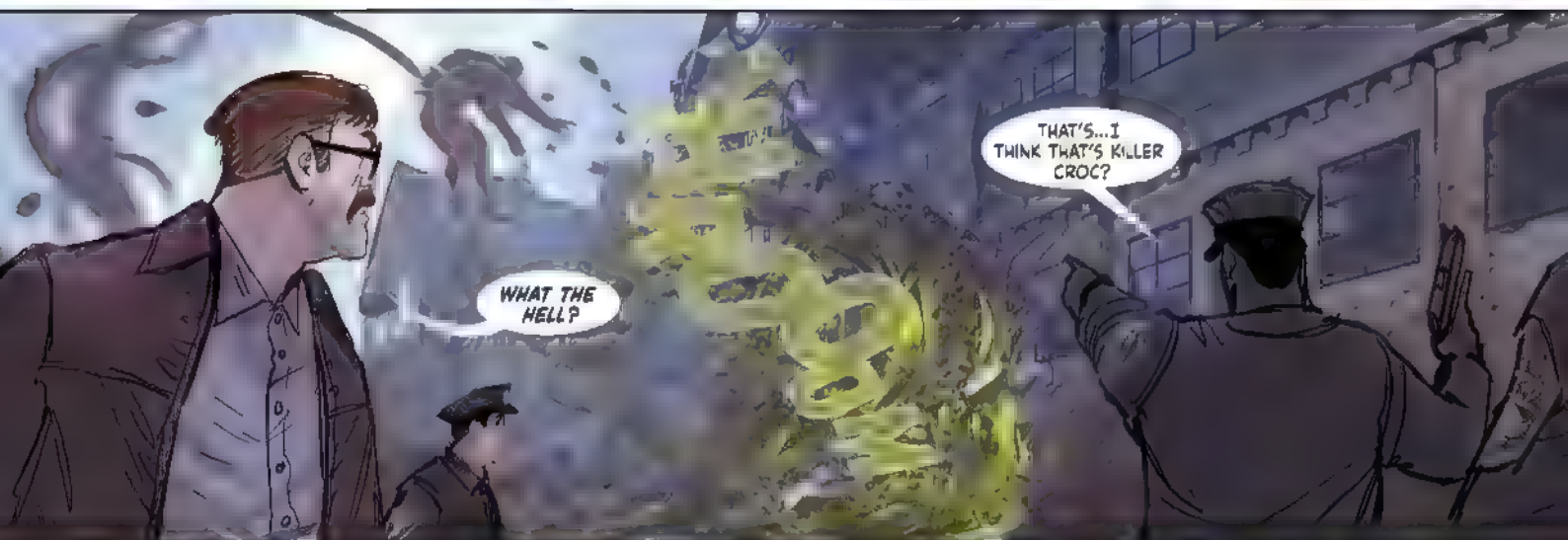
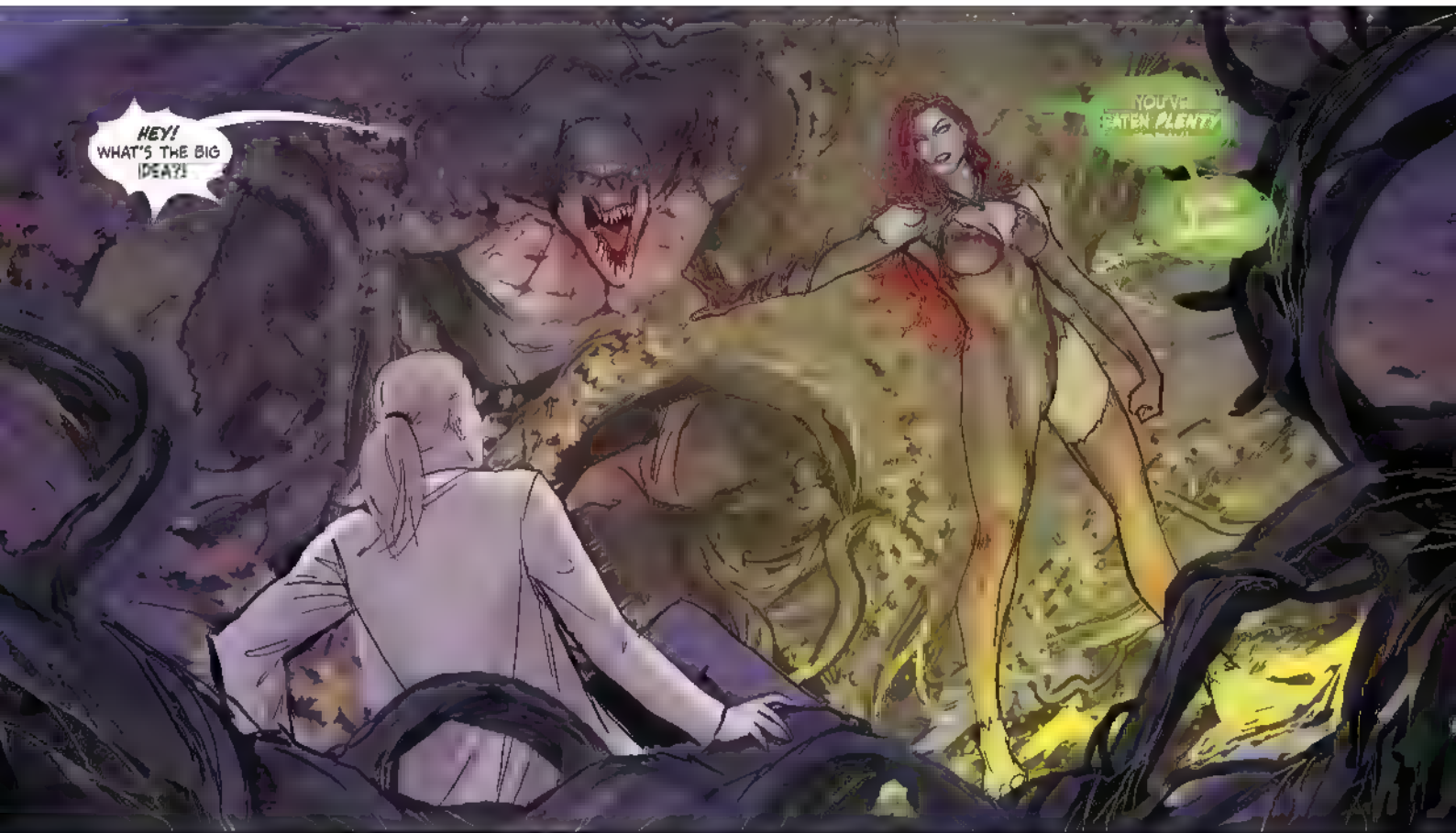


WAH!

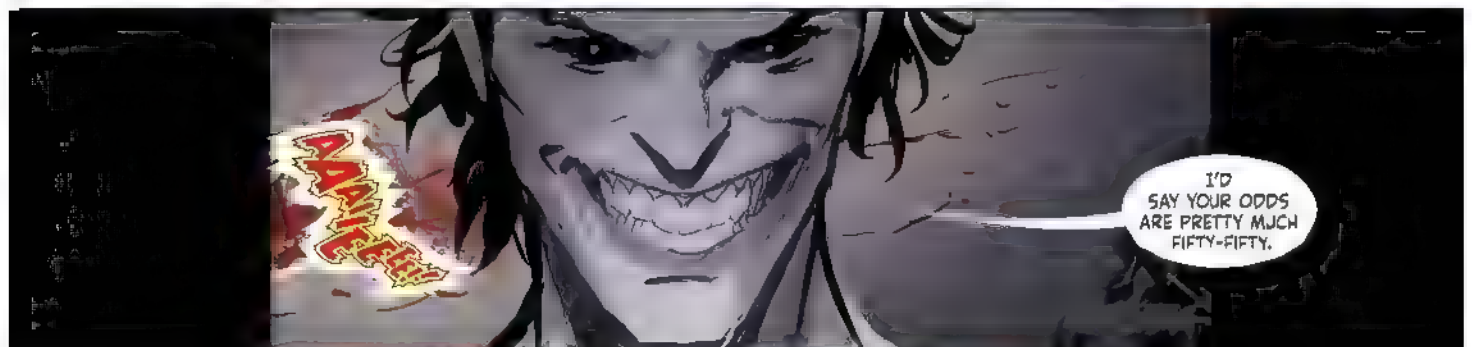
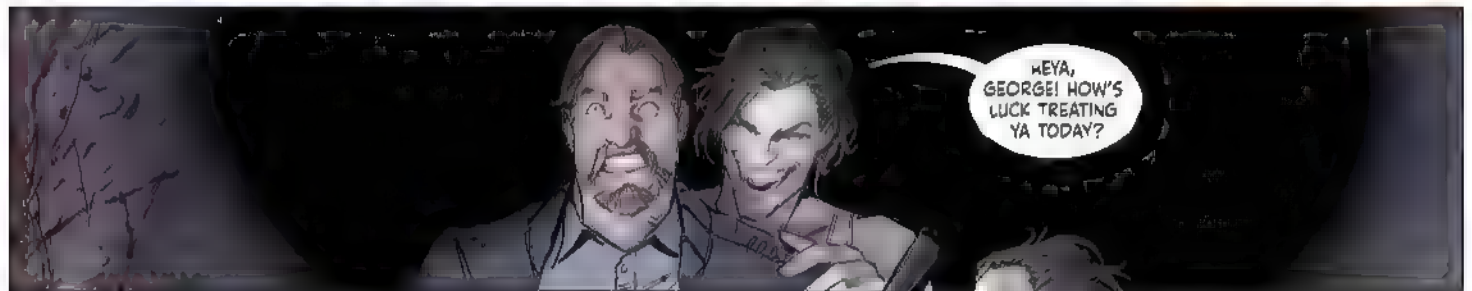


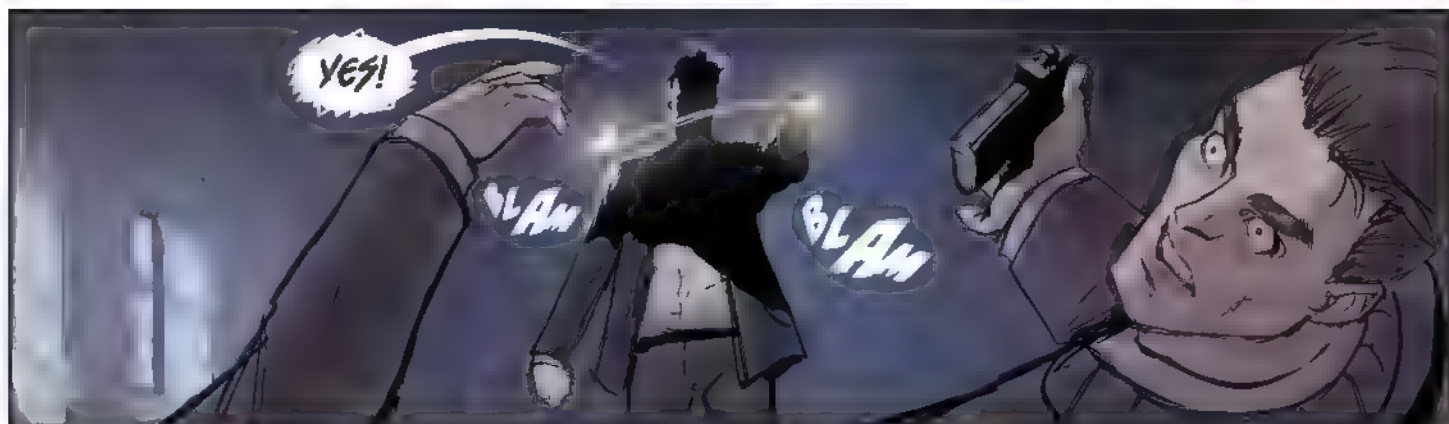
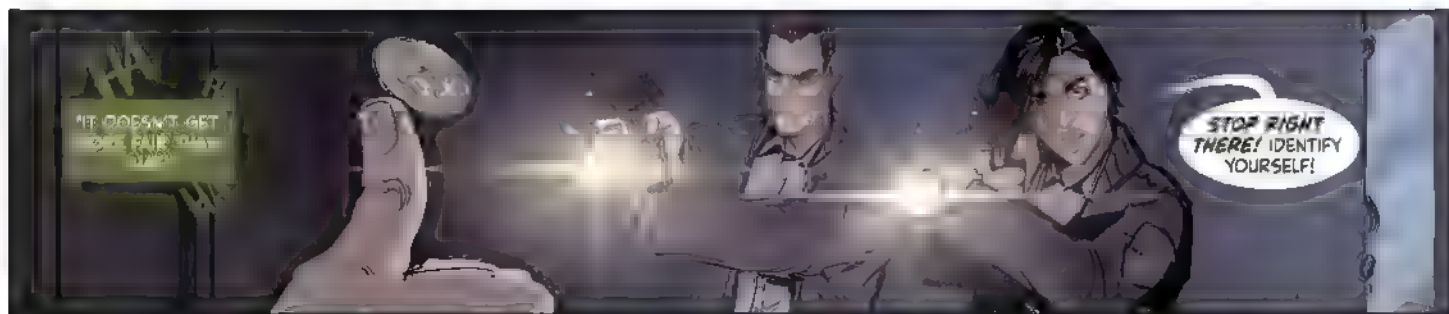
**NO!**



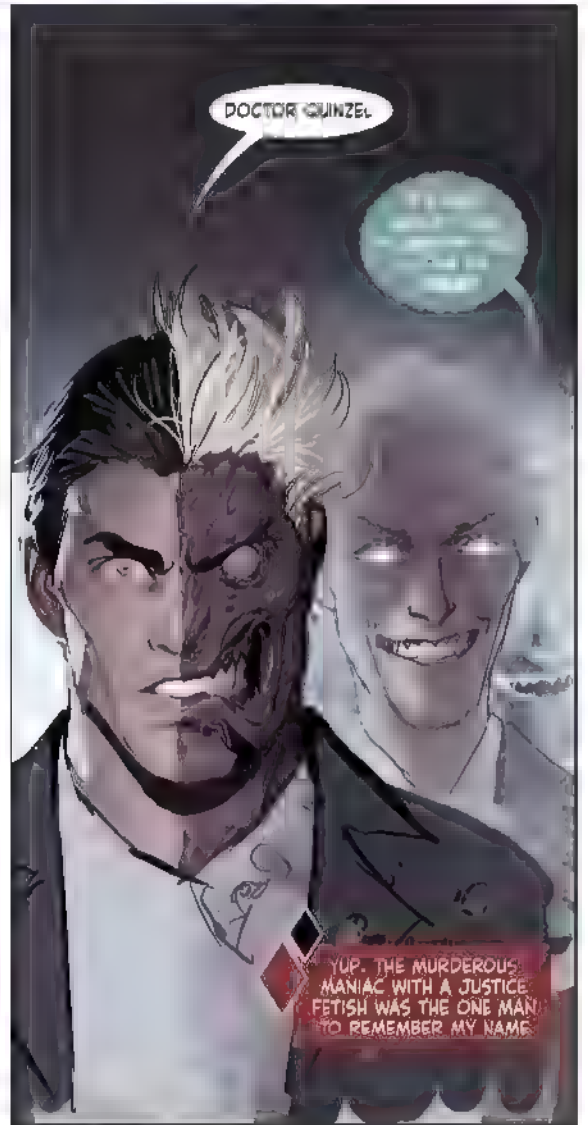
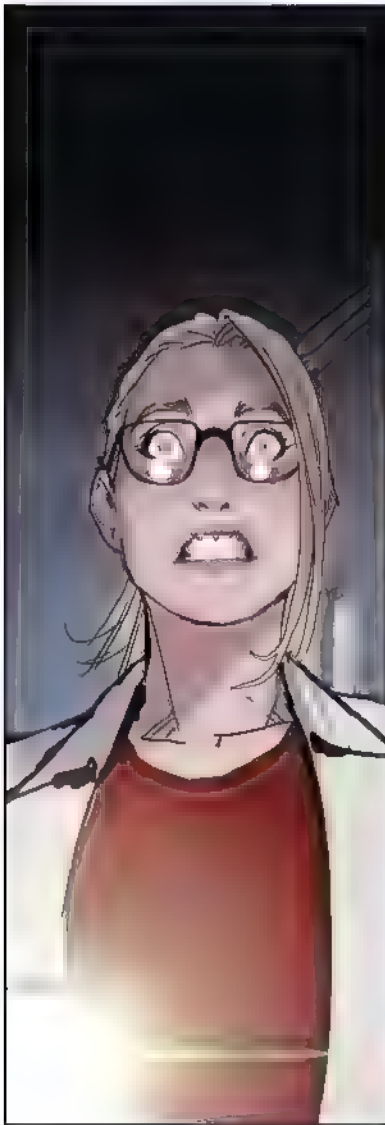


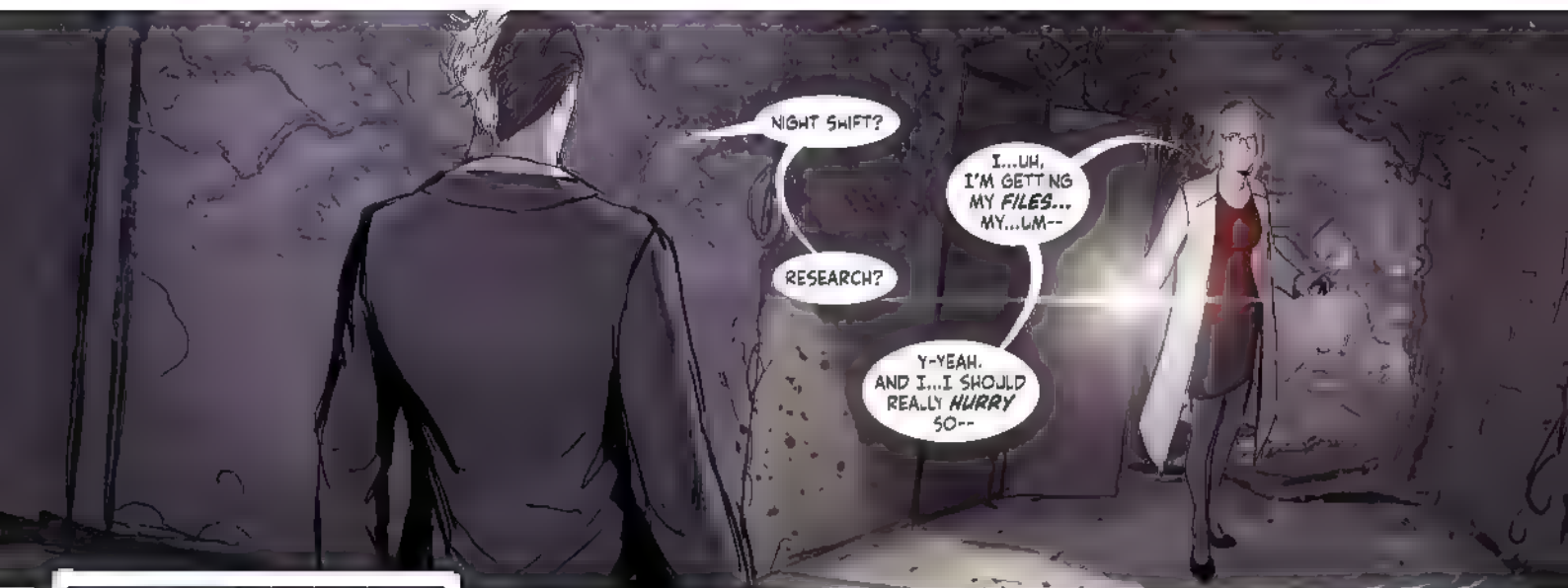












NIGHT SHIFT?

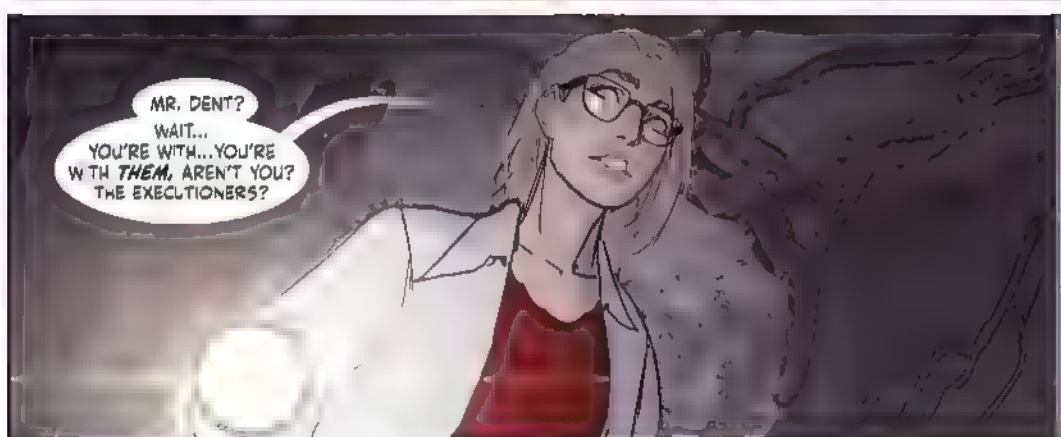
RESEARCH?

I...UH,  
I'M GETTING  
MY FILES...  
MY...LM--

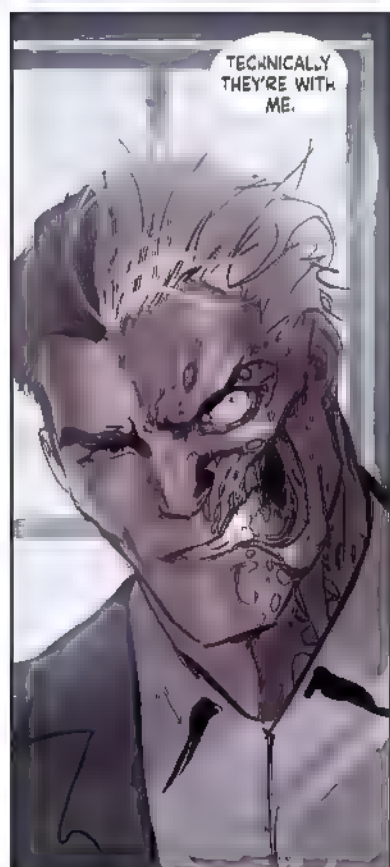
Y-YEAH.  
AND I...I SHOULD  
REALLY HURRY  
SO--



WHAT'S THE  
RUSH?



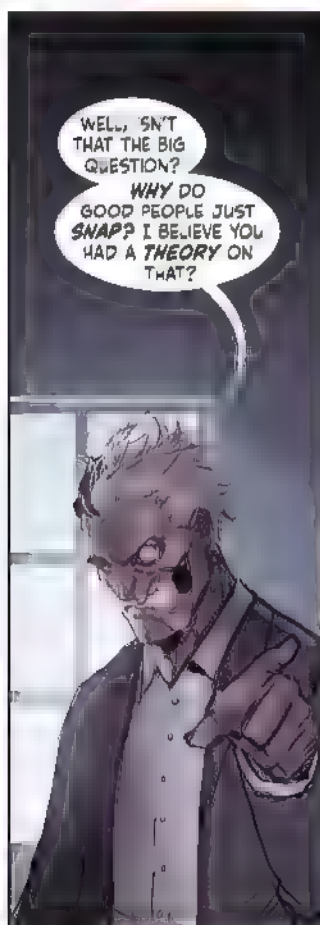
MR. DENT?  
WAIT...  
YOU'RE WITH...YOU'RE  
WITH *THEM*, AREN'T YOU?  
THE EXECUTIONERS?



TECHNICALLY  
THEY'RE WITH  
ME.

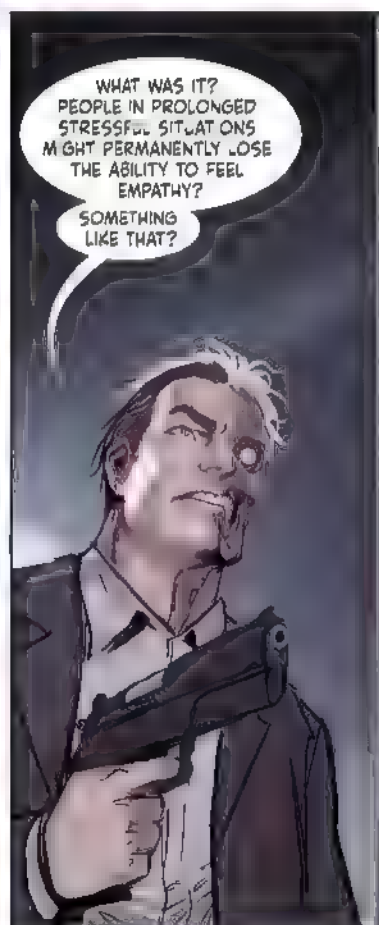


PLEASE,  
MR. DENT YOU'RE  
A *GOOD* MAN.  
WHY--



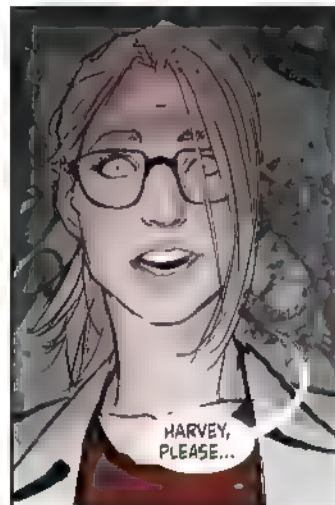
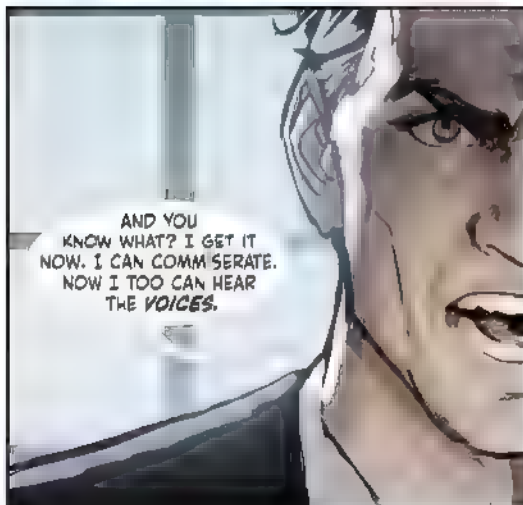
WELL, SN'T  
THAT THE BIG  
QUESTION?

WHY DO  
GOOD PEOPLE JUST  
*SNAPP* I BELIEVE YOU  
HAD A *THEORY* ON  
THAT?



WHAT WAS IT?  
PEOPLE IN PROLONGED  
STRESSFUL SITUATIONS  
MIGHT PERMANENTLY LOSE  
THE ABILITY TO FEEL  
EMPATHY?  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?







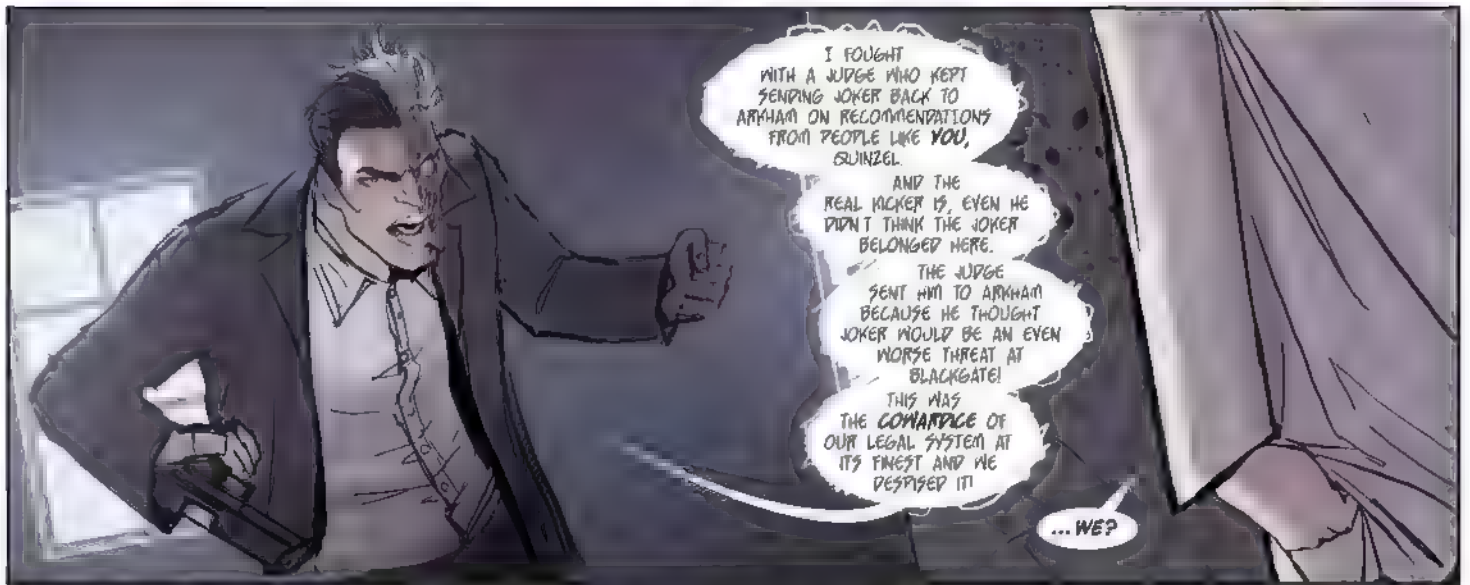
TO THE POINT, HUH?  
BUT IT DOESN'T LEAVE THIS ROOM

O-O-KAY.

IT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO



ONCE AGAIN, THE JOKER HAD ESCAPED FROM ARKHAM-- ONLY TO KILL TWELVE PEOPLE IN A GAS ATTACK



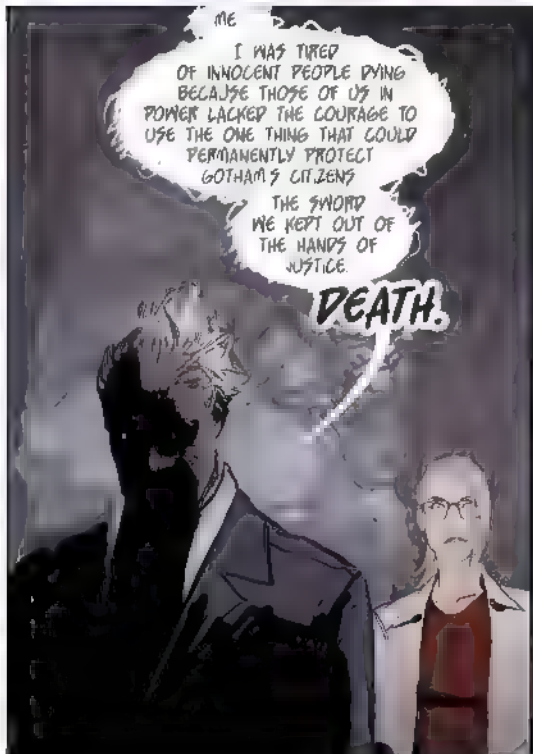
I FOUGHT WITH A JUDGE WHO KEPT SENDING JOKER BACK TO ARKHAM ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU, SWINZEL.

AND THE REAL KICKER IS, EVEN HE DIDN'T THINK THE JOKER BELONGED HERE.

THE JUDGE SENT HIM TO ARKHAM BECAUSE HE THOUGHT JOKER WOULD BE AN EVEN WORSE THREAT AT BLACKGATE!

THIS WAS THE CONFIDENCE OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM AT ITS FINEST AND WE DESPISED IT!

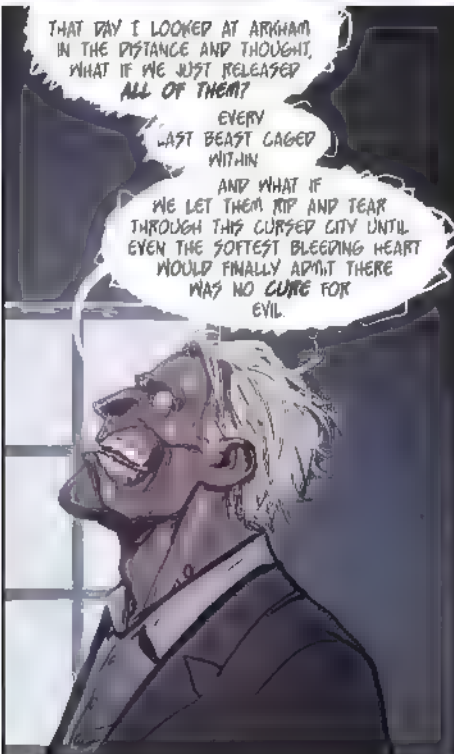
... WE?



ME  
I WAS TIRED OF INNOCENT PEOPLE DYING BECAUSE THOSE OF US IN POWER LACKED THE COURAGE TO USE THE ONE THING THAT COULD PERMANENTLY PROTECT GOTHAM'S CITIZENS

THE SWORD WE KEPT OUT OF THE HANDS OF JUSTICE.

**DEATH.**



THAT DAY I LOOKED AT ARKHAM IN THE DISTANCE AND THOUGHT, WHAT IF WE JUST RELEASED ALL OF THEM?

EVERY LAST BEAST CAGED WITHIN

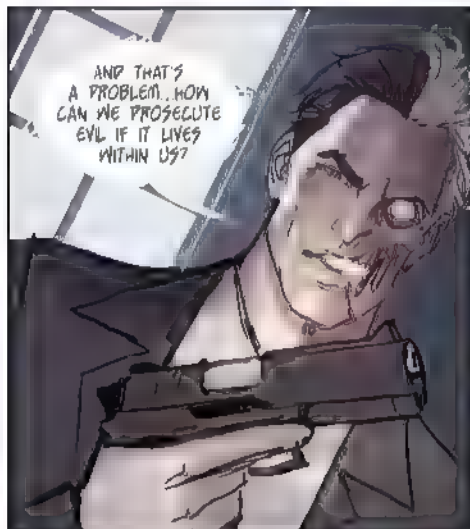
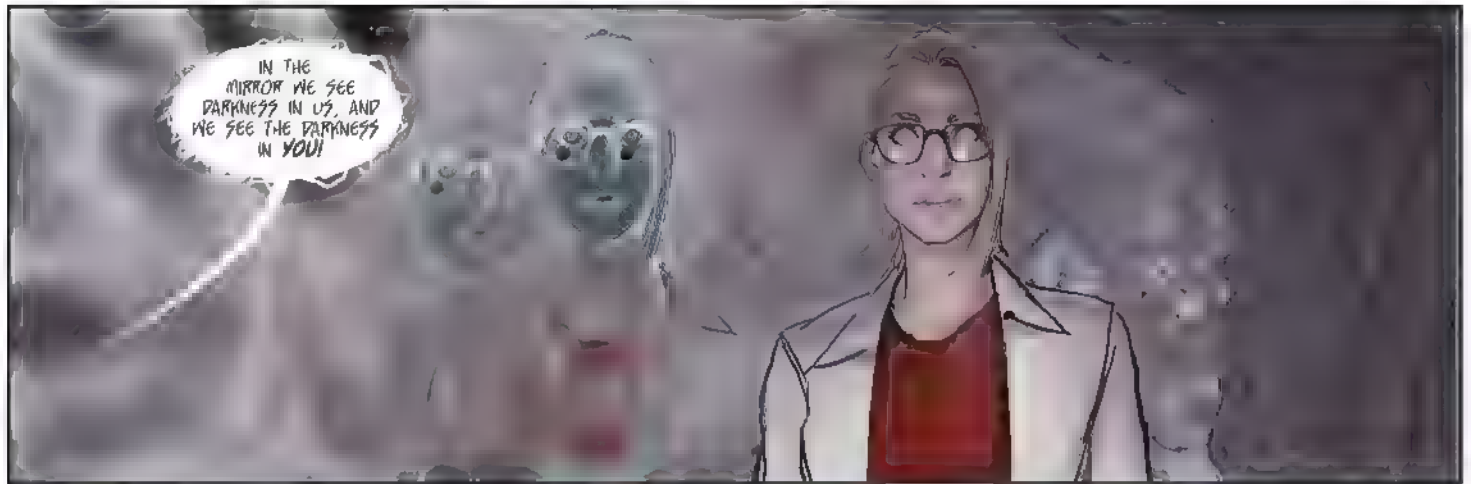
AND WHAT IF WE LET THEM RIP AND TEAR THROUGH THIS CURSED CITY UNTIL EVEN THE SOFTEST BLEEDING HEART WOULD FINALLY ADMIT THERE WAS NO CURE FOR EVIL.

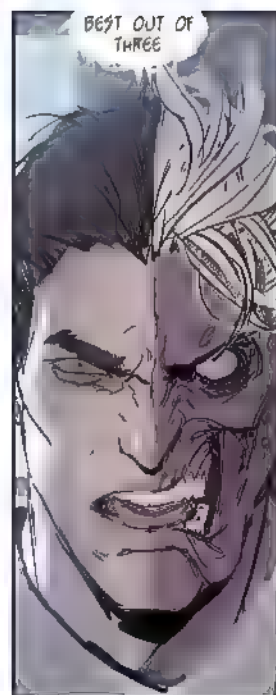
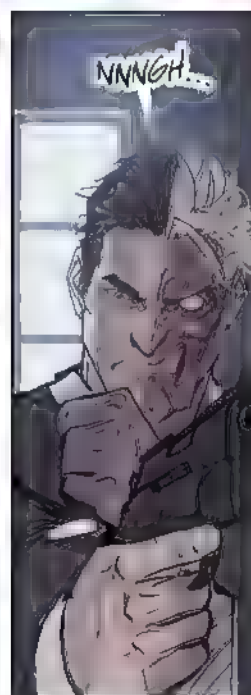
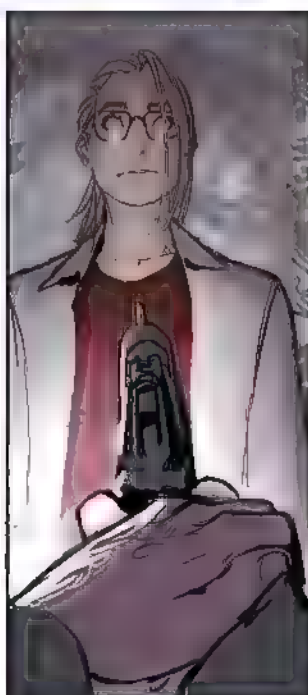
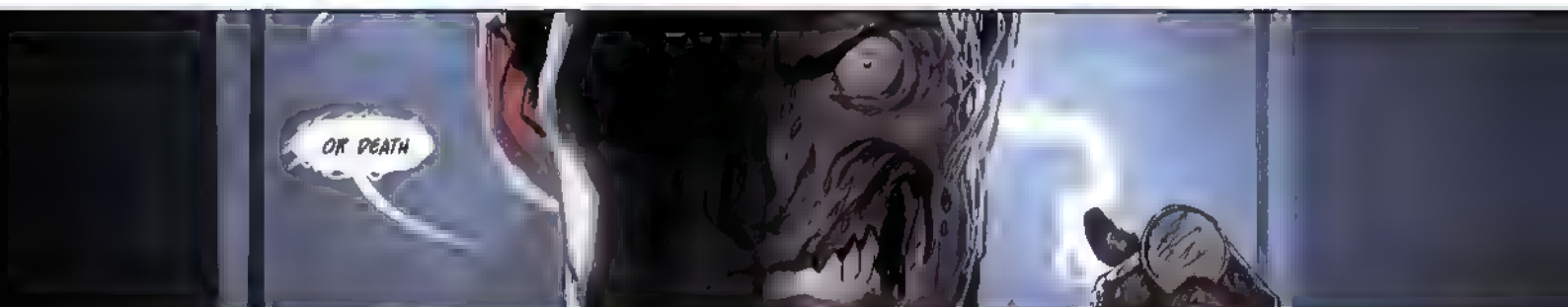
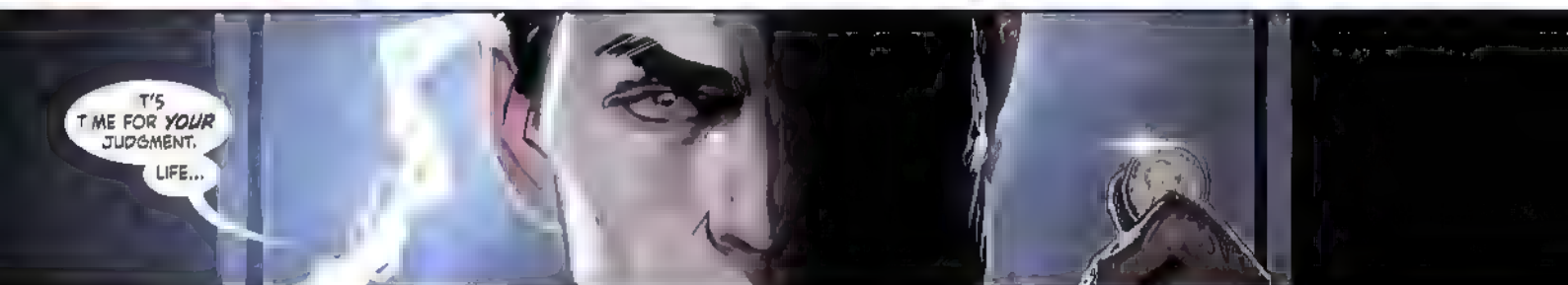
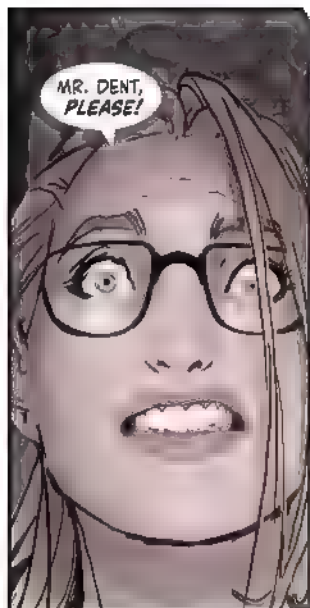


WE DROPPED THAT IDEA. IT WAS WRONG. WE WERE EMBARRASSED OF THIS DARKNESS GROWING WITHIN US.

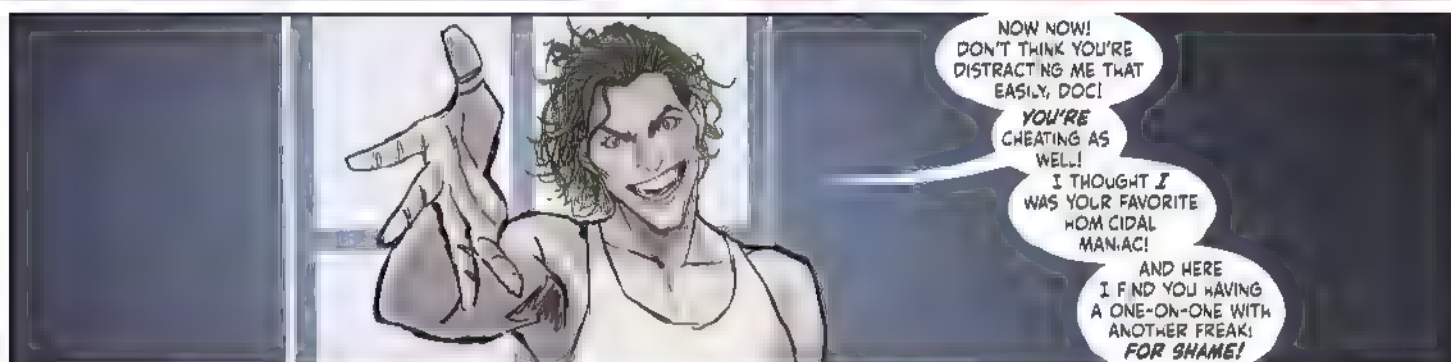
BUT NOW, WE SEE THINGS CLEARLY.

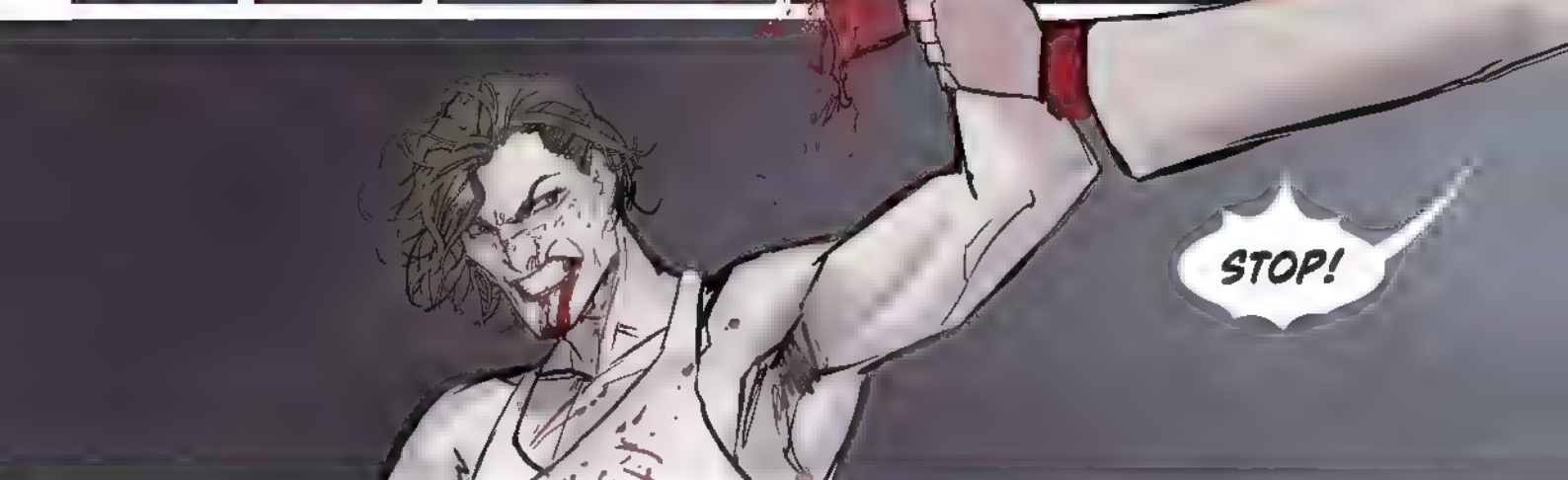
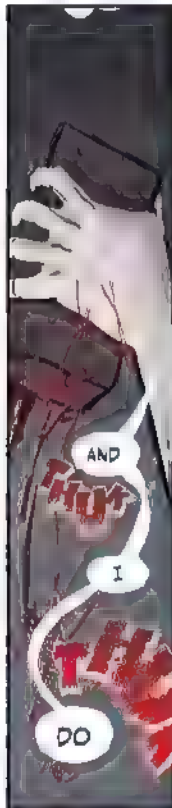
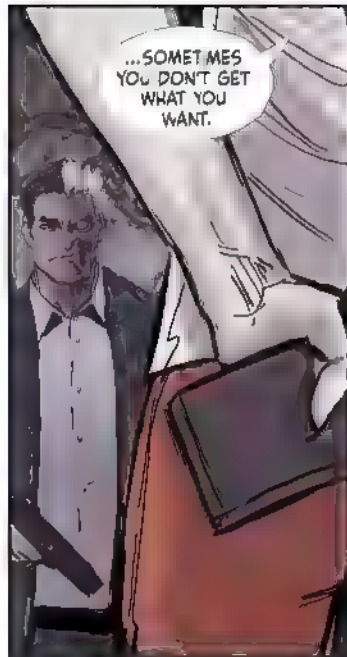




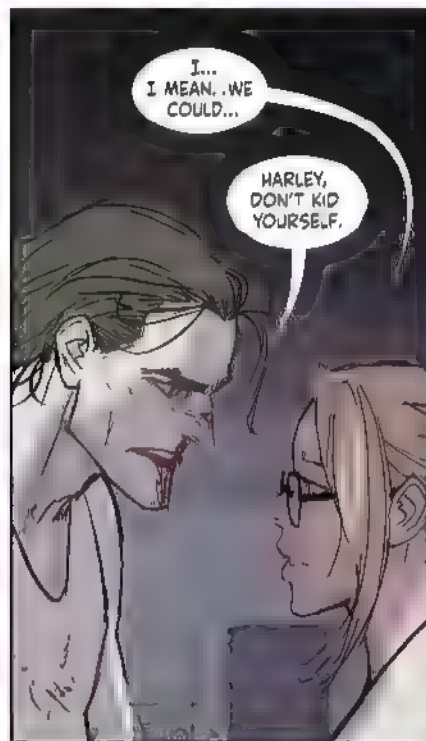
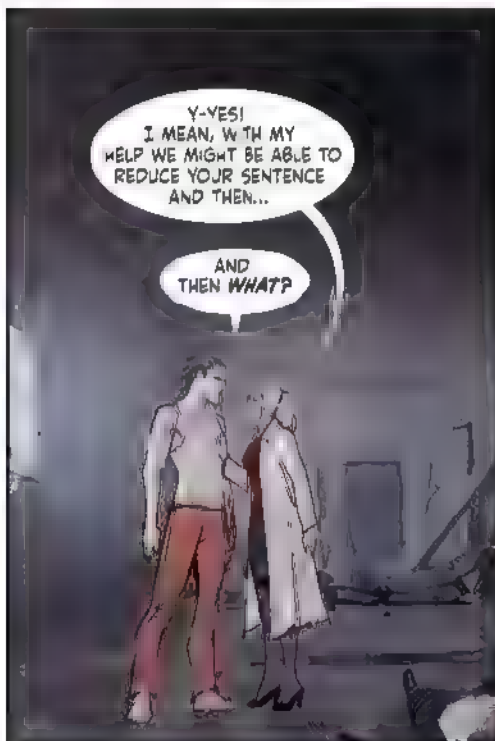
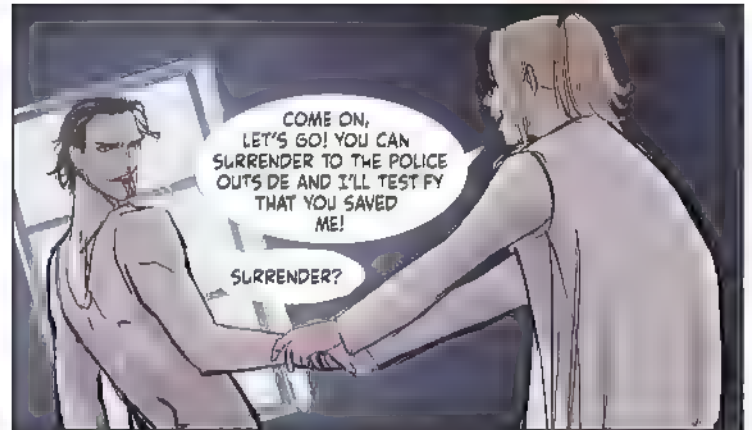
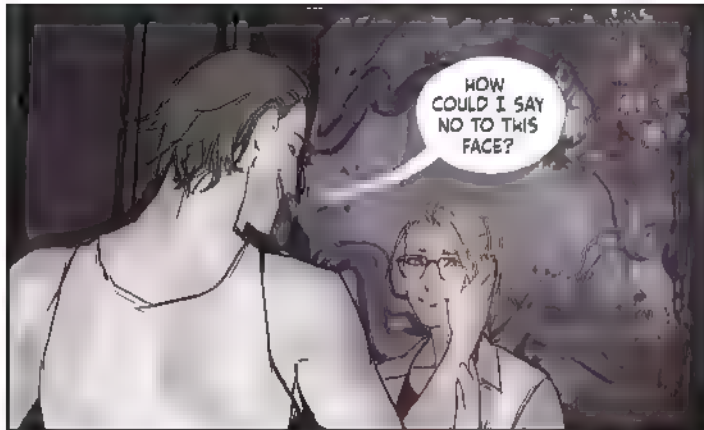
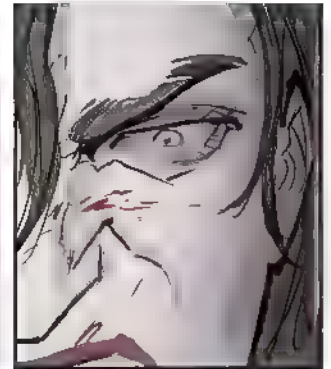


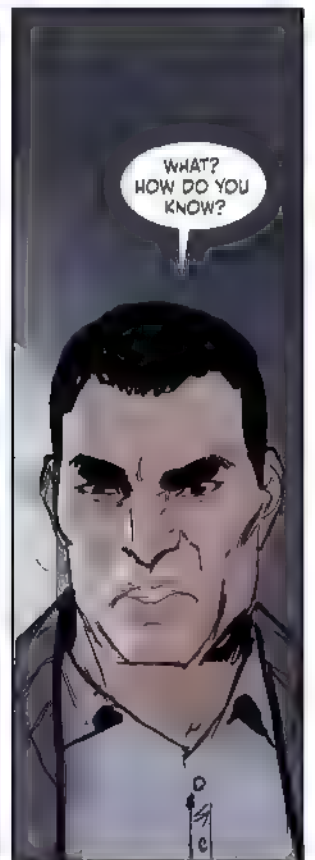
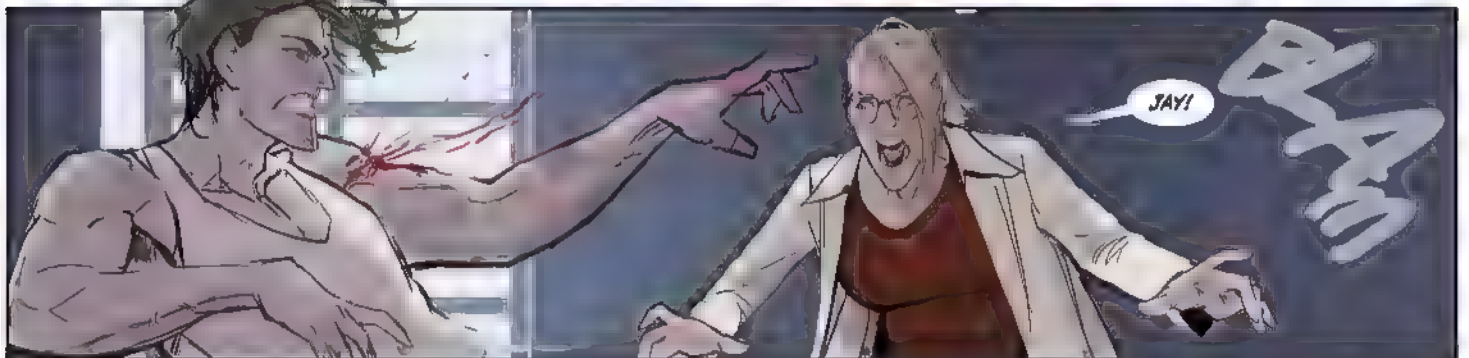




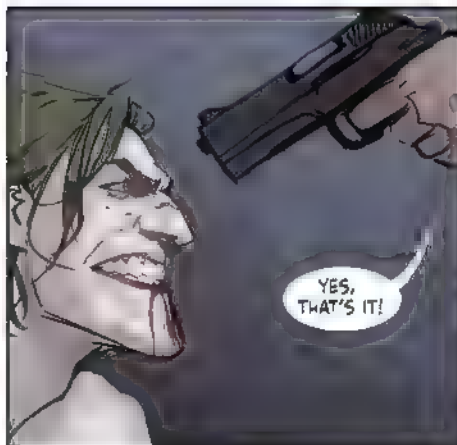
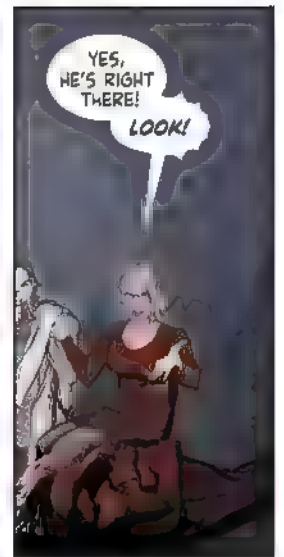
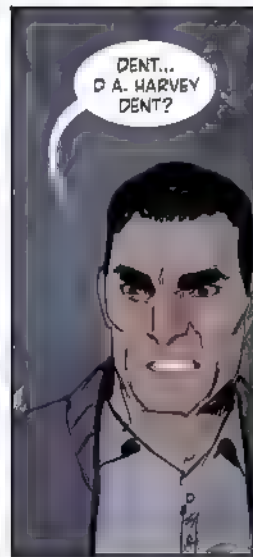






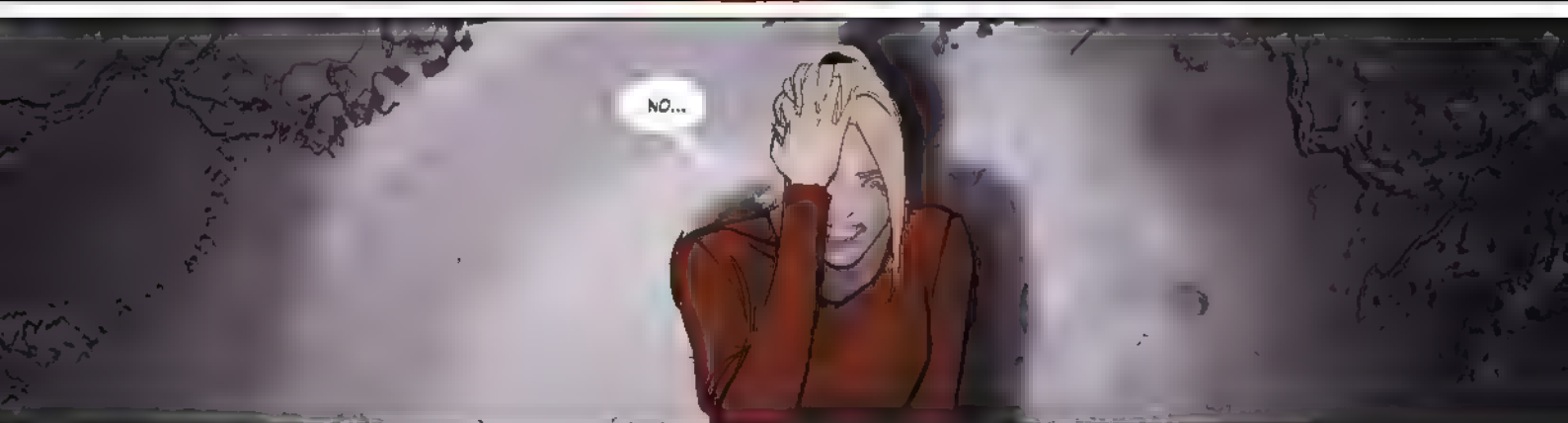
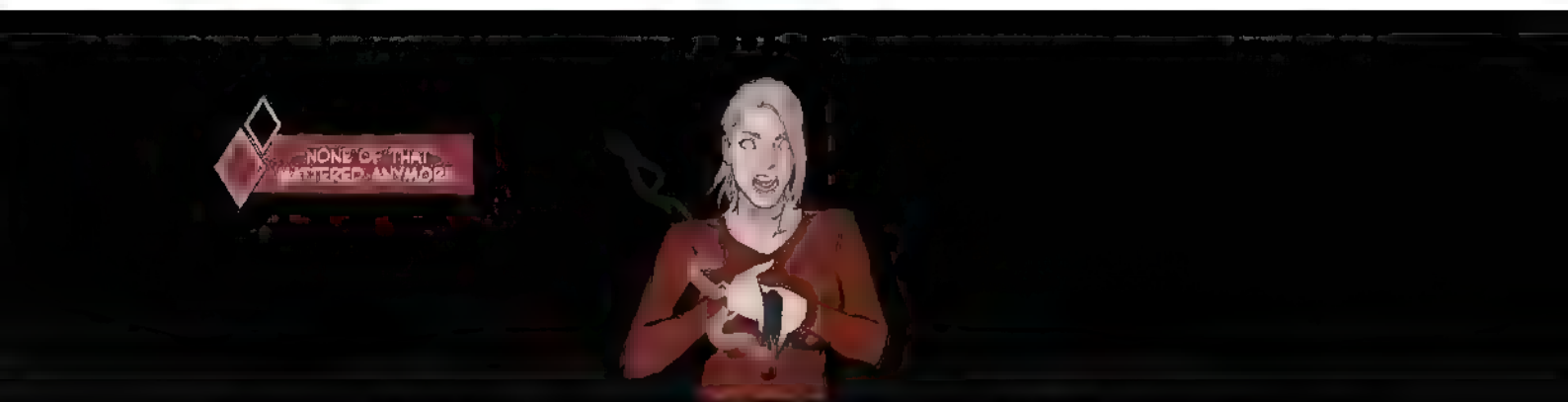














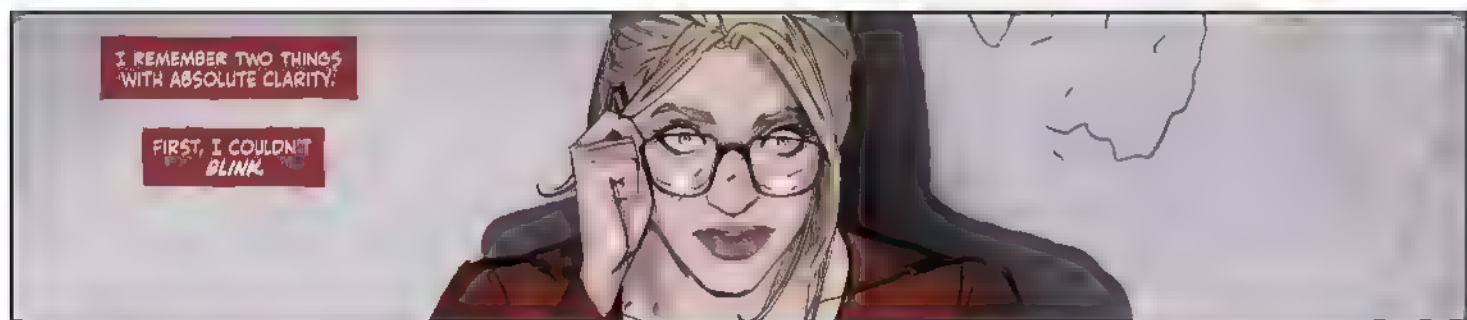
IT WAS A MOMENT OF  
INESCAPABLE FINALITY.

I WAS A  
MURDERER.

I KILLED A MAN.  
A GOOD MAN.

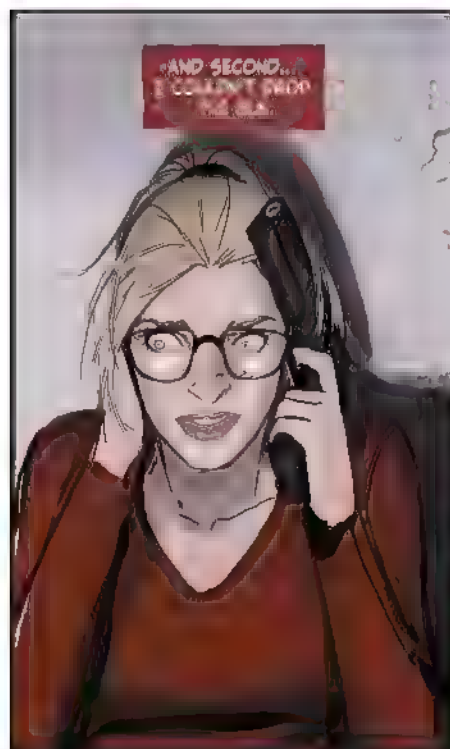
ALL HE EVER WAS, ALL HE  
EVER WOULD BE, GONE.

AND THE SAME WAS TRUE  
FOR HARLEEN QUINZEL.



I REMEMBER TWO THINGS  
WITH ABSOLUTE CLARITY.

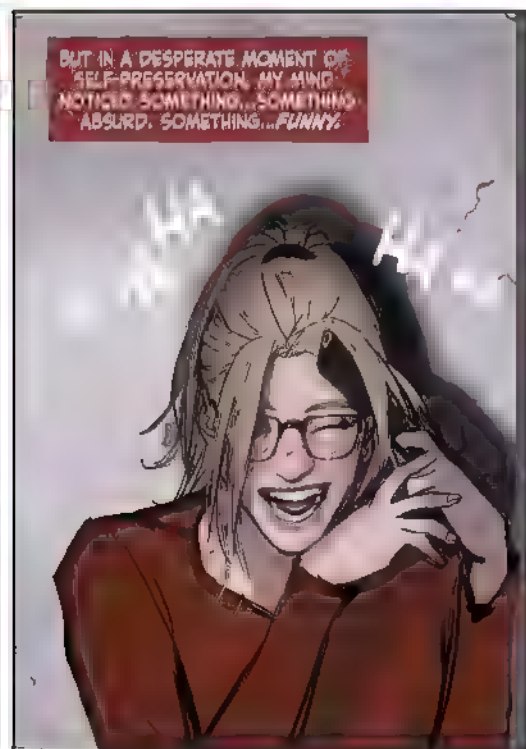
FIRST, I COULDN'T  
BLINK.



AND SECOND...  
I COULDN'T DROP  
THE GUN.



I COULDN'T DROP IT BECAUSE  
I WAS CONSIDERING PULLING THE  
TRIGGER ONE LAST TIME...



BUT IN A DESPERATE MOMENT OF  
SELF-PRESERVATION, MY MIND  
NOTICED SOMETHING... SOMETHING  
ABSURD. SOMETHING... FUNNY.



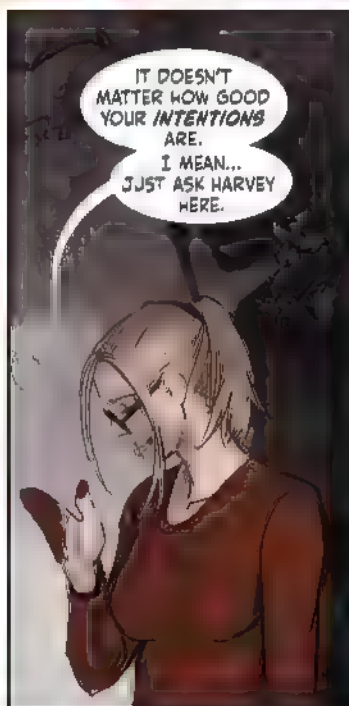


...WHAT'S FUNNY?

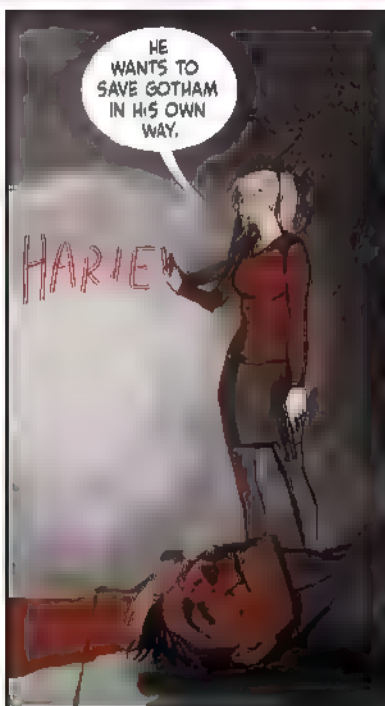
HA HA HA HA  
IT...  
ALL OF IT  
IT'S ALL JUST...  
FUNNY!  
I MEAN,  
YOU WERE  
RIGHT!



I WANTED  
TO HELP...  
...BUT I'M JUST  
A MONSTER...  
...LIKE  
EVERYONE  
ELSE IN THIS  
CITY.



IT DOESN'T  
MATTER HOW GOOD  
YOUR *INTENTIONS*  
ARE.  
I MEAN...  
JUST ASK HARVEY  
HERE.



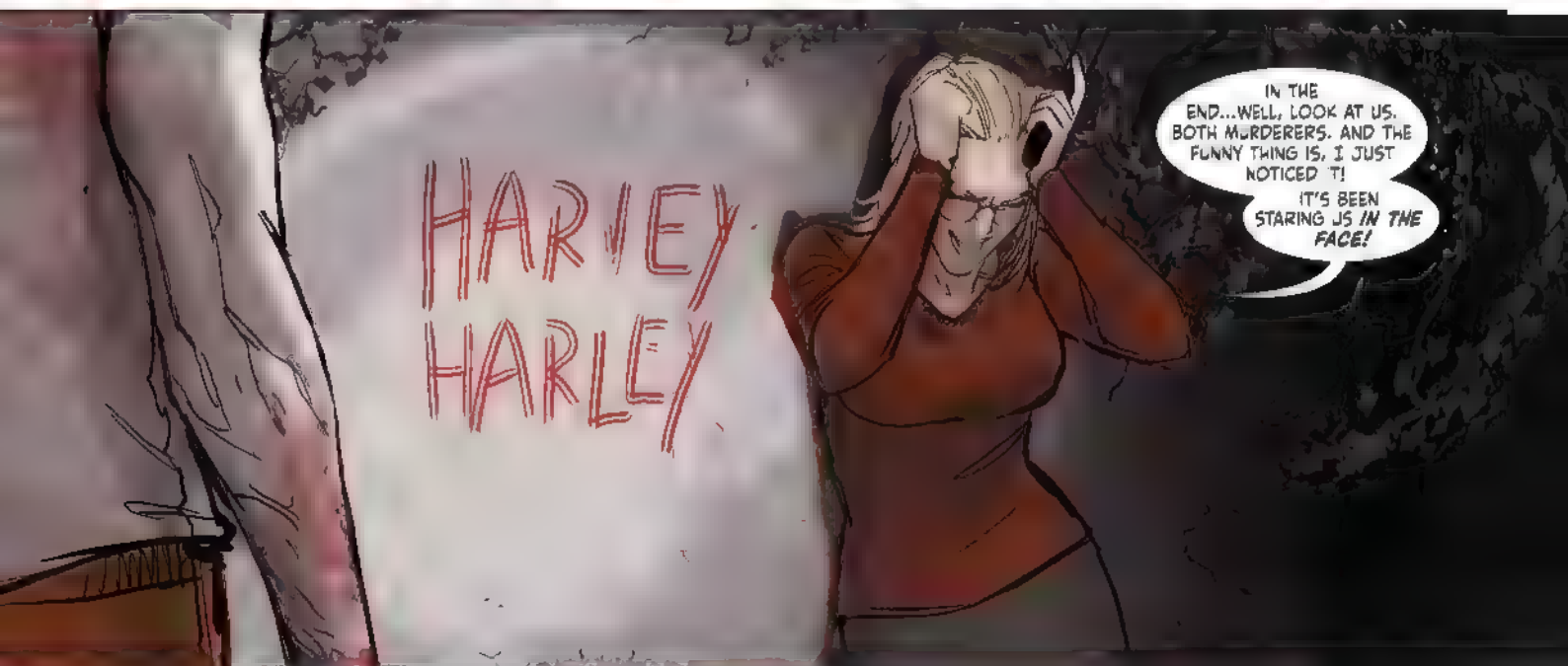
HE  
WANTS TO  
SAVE GOTHAM  
IN HIS OWN  
WAY.

HARVEY



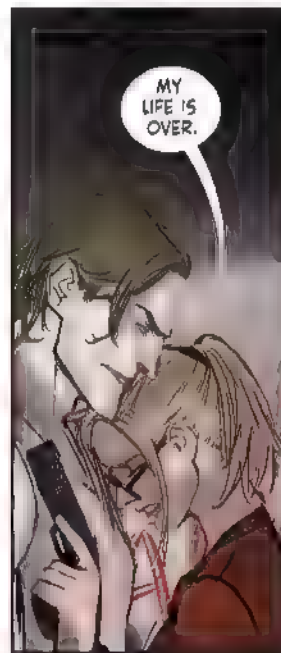
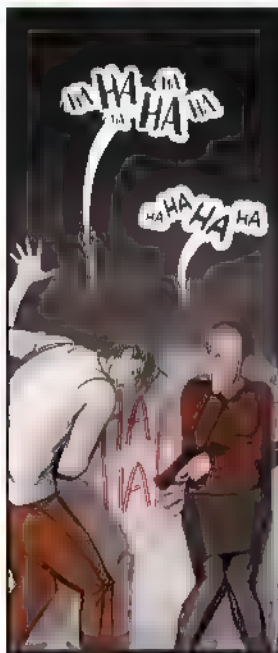
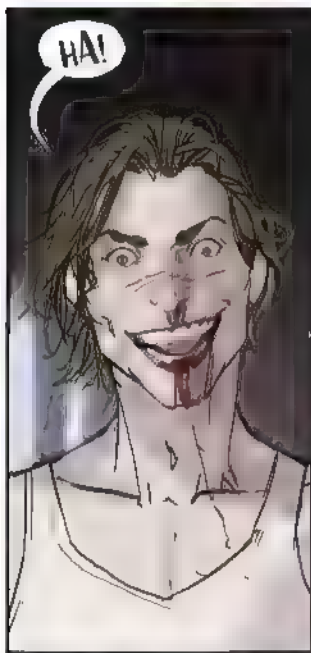
AND SO  
DID I...

HARVEY  
HARLEY

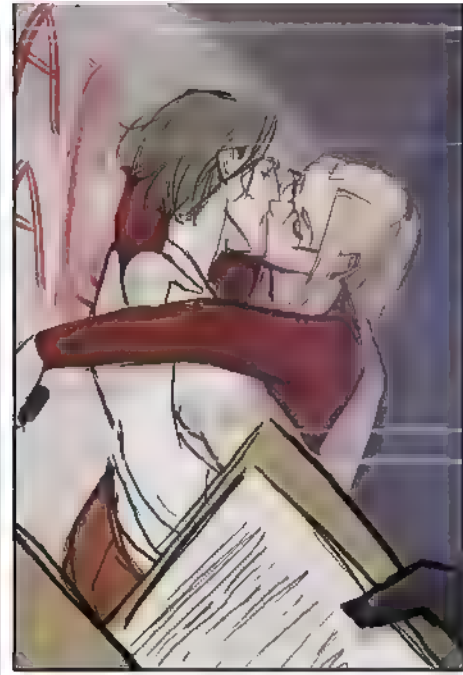


HARVEY  
HARLEY

IN THE  
END...WELL, LOOK AT US.  
BOTH MURDERERS. AND THE  
FUNNY THING IS, I JUST  
NOTICED IT!  
IT'S BEEN  
STARING JS IN THE  
FACE!







## THE BATCAVE.

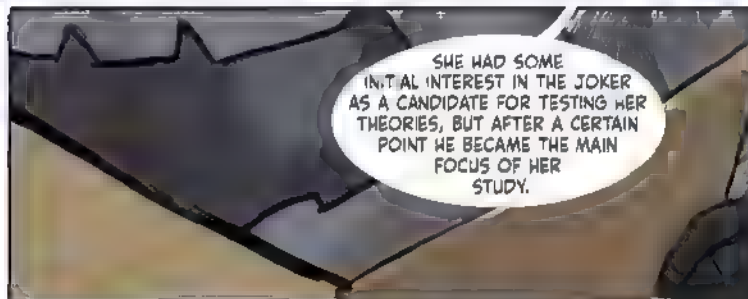
Three weeks later.



HOW DOES  
THE ARKHAM  
INVESTIGATION,  
SIR?

I FOUND  
THIS FILE HIDDEN  
IN THE JOKER'S  
CELL.

IT'S  
DR. QUINZEL'S  
RESEARCH.



SHE HAD SOME  
INITIAL INTEREST IN THE JOKER  
AS A CANDIDATE FOR TESTING HER  
THEORIES, BUT AFTER A CERTAIN  
POINT HE BECAME THE MAIN  
FOCUS OF HER  
STUDY.



LISTEN TO  
THIS...

"IN A WAR ZONE,  
EMPATHY IS A **LIABILITY**.  
ACKNOWLEDGING THE HUMANITY  
OF YOUR ENEMY WILL CAUSE YOU  
TO HESITATE. IT IS A COURTESY  
YOUR OPPONENT MAY NOT  
GRANT YOU IN  
RETURN."



THAT'S QUITE  
CHILLING

IT'S FROM  
AN INTERVIEW  
SHE CONDUCTED WITH  
A FORMER MILITARY  
OFFICER.

A MURDERER.

NOW WATCH  
THIS, FROM ONE  
OF HER JOKER  
SESSIONS...



W-WHAT?

I MEAN,  
REGRET, GUILT...  
EMPATHY... THEY  
BRING ABOUT  
HESITATION.

AND ON  
THE STREETS,  
HESITATION WILL  
GET YOU CAUGHT...

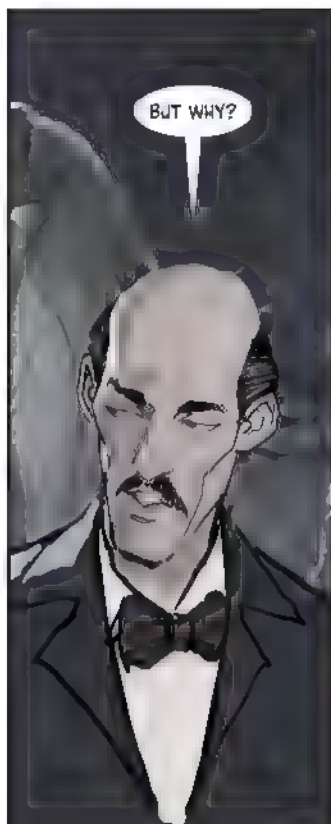


...GET  
YOU KILLED. I  
ALWAYS PREFERRED WE  
KILLED THAT PART  
OF OURSELVES  
FIRST.

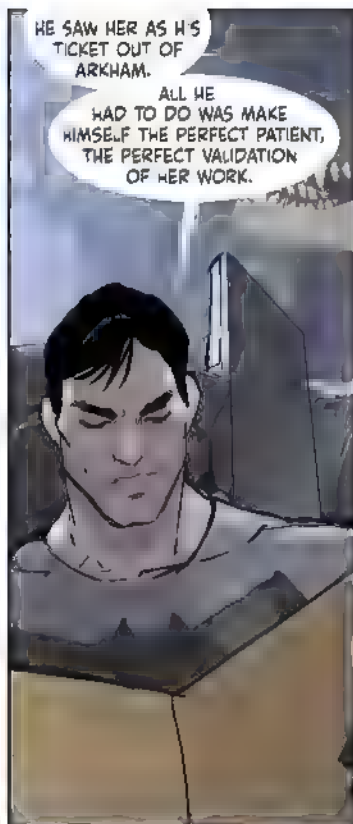
HE  
CHANGED SOME  
PHRASING,  
BUT...



YES. IT'S  
TAKEN ALMOST  
WORD FOR WORD  
FROM HER OWN  
RESEARCH.



BUT WHY?



HE SAW HER AS HIS  
TICKET OUT OF  
ARKHAM.

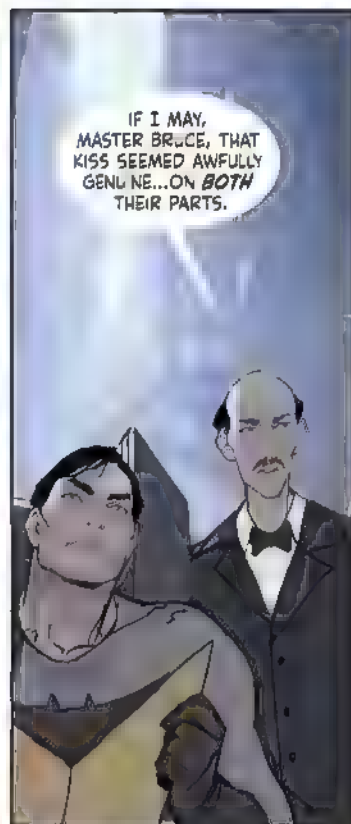
ALL HE  
HAD TO DO WAS MAKE  
HIMSELF THE PERFECT PATIENT,  
THE PERFECT VALIDATION  
OF HER WORK.



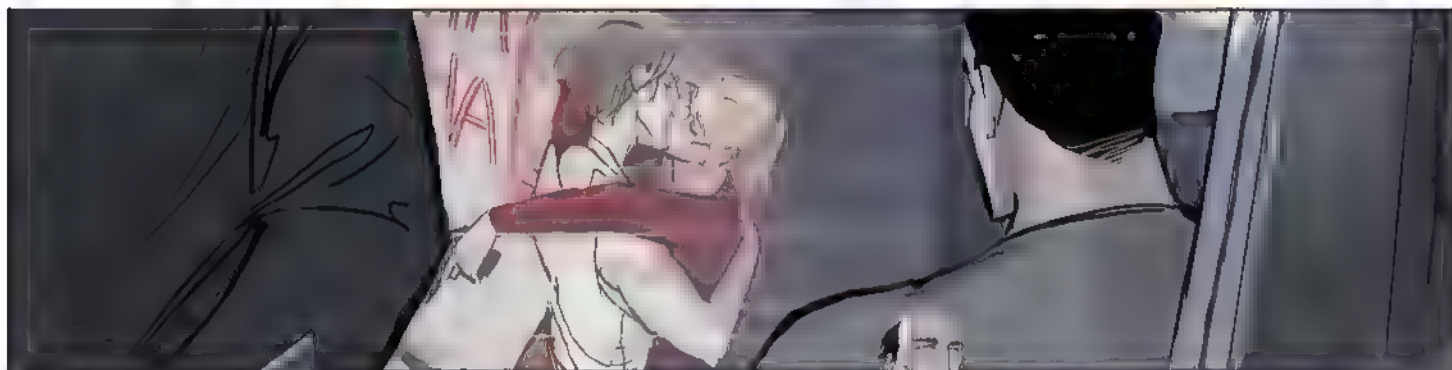
THE JOKER'S A MASTER  
MANIPULATOR.

WHEN THE  
EXECUTIONERS MADE  
THEIR MOVE ON ARKHAM,  
HE'D ALREADY PR MED HER  
TO SACRIFICE HERSELF  
FOR HIM.

HARLEEN  
FELL FOR HIS  
LIES.



IF I MAY,  
MASTER BRUCE, THAT  
KISS SEEMED AWFULLY  
GENUINE...ON *BOTH*  
THEIR PARTS.

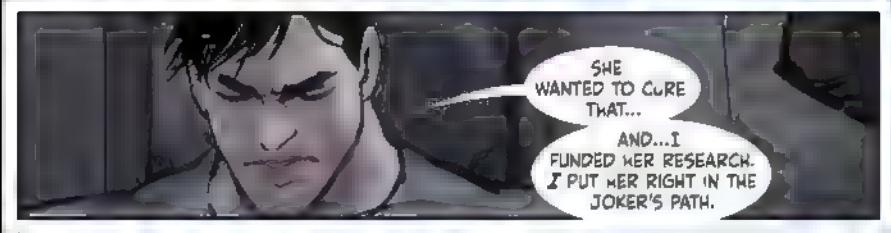


WHAT  
ARE YOU SAYING,  
ALFRED?  
THE  
JOKER IS IN  
LOVE?

WELL, LOVE  
IS A B T TOO STRONG OF  
A WORD... BUT THEY DO  
SEEM *CRAZY* ABOUT  
ONE ANOTHER

THEN  
AGAIN, IN GOTHAM  
CITY, *CRAZY* CERTAINLY  
SEEMS TO BE  
CONTAGIOUS.





SHE  
WANTED TO CURE  
THAT...

AND...I  
FUNDED HER RESEARCH.  
I PUT HER RIGHT IN THE  
JOKER'S PATH.

YES, THAT  
MAY HAVE BEEN THE  
**BEGINNING** OF HER JOURNEY,  
BRUCE. BUT DR. QUINZEL  
TOOK THE WRONG TURNS  
ON HER OWN.

NO, I  
CAN'T BELIEVE  
THAT. YOU'VE NEVER  
MET HARLEEN,  
ALFRED.

SHE  
WANTED NOTHING  
MORE THAN TO  
**HELP!**

HE TOOK HER **WORK** AND  
HER **KINDNESS** AND  
USED IT AGAINST  
HER!

PERHAPS.  
GIVEN YOUR HISTORY, IT  
MAKES SENSE YOU WOULD  
SEE IT LIKE THAT, BUT WE  
CAN'T KNOW FOR  
SURE.

HOWEVER,  
IF DR. QUINZEL'S FATE  
WEIGHS SO HEAVILY ON  
YOUR HEART, THEN TAKE  
MY ADVICE.

IF SHE IS  
LOST, THEN BE A  
BEACON

...A LIGHT IN THE STORM TO  
SHOW HER THE WAY BACK.

## FOUR YEARS LATER.

THE MOON'S FULL AGAIN.

IT'S HOW I KNOW  
THIS IS ALL A DREAM.

THE MOON'S  
ALWAYS FULL.

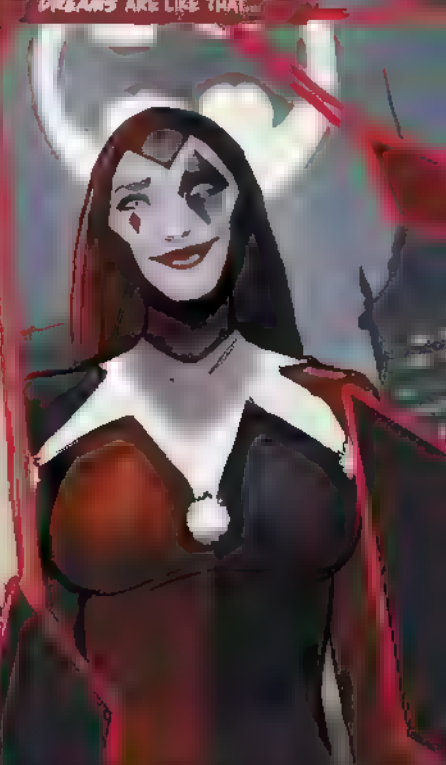
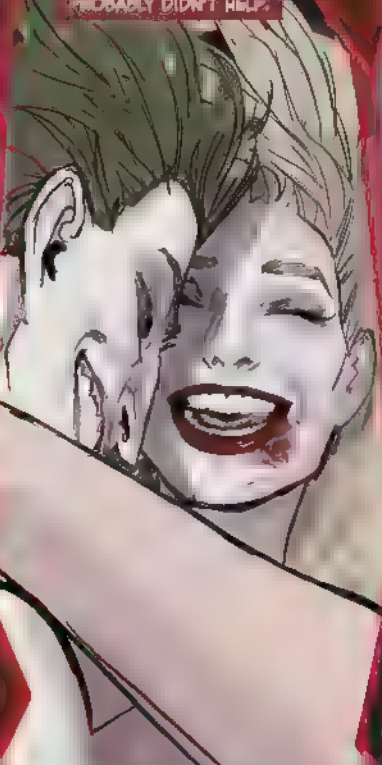
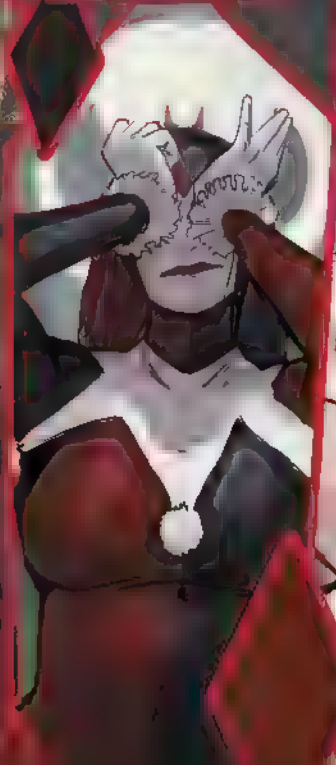
SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME  
THAT WAS A GOTHAM THING.

HARD TO REMEMBER  
WHO THAT WAS.

NOWADAYS A LOT OF  
THINGS ARE FUZZY. A FEW  
TUMBLES TOO MANY.

THE LAUGHING GAS  
PROBABLY DIDN'T HELP.

...NO. IT'S ALL FUZZY BECAUSE  
DREAMS ARE LIKE THAT...





THE DREAM  
DREAMS

AFTER ALL, THIS IS  
WHERE I BELONG

WORTH HIM

BECAUSE I  
LOVE HIM

BECAUSE I CAN  
STILL HELP HIM

BECAUSE EVEN IN THE  
DREAM, I HOPE I CAN  
STILL SAVE HIM

IT'S A GOOD DREAM

IT'S JUST... THERE'S A SMALL, LUCID  
PART OF ME THAT WANTS TO WAKE UP.  
THE DREAM HAS LASTED QUITE A WHILE.  
A LONG TIME IN THE DARK.

MEAN, EVEN THE DARKEST  
NIGHT MUST END





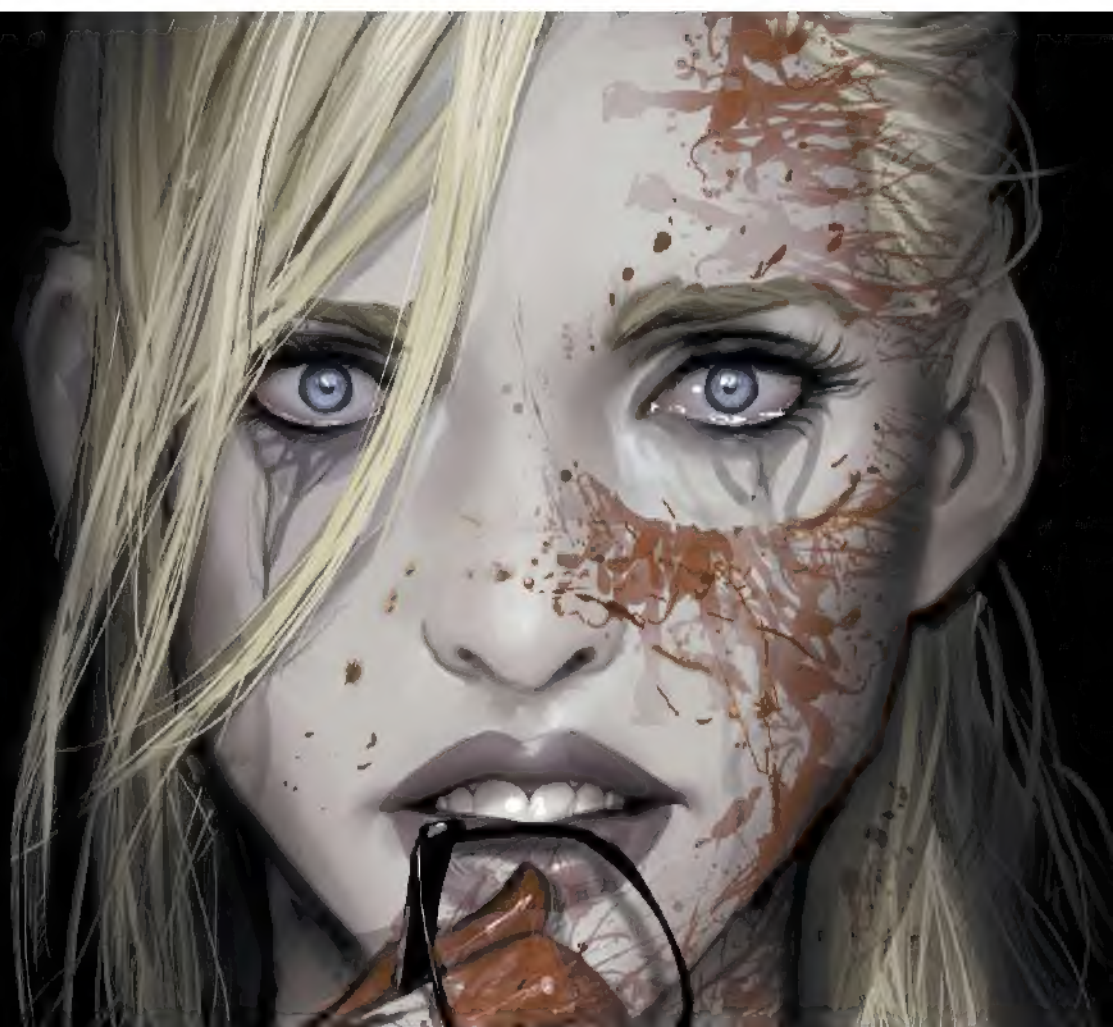




**"GOTHAM**  
IS THE CITY  
WHERE ALL THE ANGELS  
**FLY ON WINGS**  
OF ICARUS, DOCTOR.

**"UP, UP,  
UP THEY GO..."**

**"AND DOWN,  
DOWN,  
DOWN**  
THEY FALL."







**ANDY KHOURI**

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HARLEEN



**"THERE WAS  
A BROKEN MAN  
IN THE ABYSS..."**

**"...I REACHED DOWN  
TO HELP HIM..."**

**"...I REALIZED  
TOO LATE,  
HE WASN'T SLIPPING..."**

**"...HE WAS  
DRAGGING ME."**

A BRILLIANT YOUNG PSYCHIATRIST WITH THE CURE FOR THE MADNESS OF GOTHAM, DR. HARLEEN QUINZEL, TAKES DRASTIC MEASURES TO SAVE THE CITY FROM ITSELF. WITNESS THE BIRTH OF THE LEGENDARY SUPER-VILLAIN HARLEY QUINN IN THIS STUNNING REIMAGINING OF HARLEY AND THE JOKER'S TWISTED AND TRAGIC LOVE AFFAIR BY ACCLAIMED STORYTELLER STJEPAN SEJIC (*AQUAMAN: UNDERWORLD, SUNSTONE*).

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